

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

The great divide
Why the Star Wars
dream endangers
Britain's relationship
with the United States



Splendid isolation
Enoch Powell reviews
a new book
calling for
British neutrality

The yen to build
Britain's growing
property investments
in Japan and
the Far East

Musical memories
Jack Brymer, now
approaching 70, talks
about his career
and his music

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition
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IRA man back at Commons

Mr Gerry MacLochlainn, the
convicted IRA terrorist whose
visit to the House of Commons
six weeks after the Brighton
bombing caused an uproar,
attended a meeting at the House
to launch a campaign against
the Prevention of Terrorism Act.
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Computer fever in Moscow

Russians flocked excitedly to an
exhibition in Moscow of Western
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is still worried about the
possible impact of electronic
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No option

Sir Michael Edwards, chairman
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executives have permanently
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Waite's return

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop
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returned to Britain from
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Talks shelved

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Thatcher orders three-year spending squeeze

By Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Real cuts in 1985-86, followed by two years of restraint, are proposed in the Government's new plans for public expenditure up to the next general election.

Among the economics signalled by yesterday's White Paper are steep increases in prescription charges, which are likely to rise by at least 35p this year, and by much more than general prices during the next two years.

The White Paper suggests this would reduce public expenditure from 42.5 per cent of the nation's income this year to 39.5 per cent in 1987-88, likely to be the final year of this Parliament. However, this share would still be just as high as it was during Mrs Margaret Thatcher's first year of office.

The Government's aim is to keep public spending constant in "real terms" - after allowing for inflation - between 1983-84 and 1987-88. The rate of inflation is assumed to decline slowly, to an annual rate of 3.5 per cent in 1987-88.

But the White Paper shows that public spending has risen constantly in real terms, by an average of 1.5 per cent a year since Mrs Thatcher took office.

"Of course we would always like to do better," Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said, presenting the White Paper yesterday. But he pointed out that public spending had been rising by an average of 3 per cent a year faster than inflation during the previous decade or so.

Public spending is to be held constant in real terms over the next three years, and drop from 42.5 per cent to 39.5 per cent of GDP.

Big increases in prescription charges are planned, from £1.60 to about £2 in April, with rises of twice the rate of inflation over the next two years.

The miners' strike cost at least £1.4 billion by the end of December.

Defence spending will rise by 3 per cent in 1985-86, in line with Britain's commitment to Nato, but real cuts are planned for the following two years.

Privatization should raise £2.5 billion for the Government in 1985-86. This year's figure is £2 billion.

The Government is building or planning 16 new prisons. There will be more cash for legal aid and probation.

No significant savings are expected from the abolition of the GLC and the six metropolitan authorities.

The Government's latest estimate for this year (1984-85) is that public spending will overshoot by £1.7 billion, of which all but £200 million is said to be the result of the miners' strike.

But the final figure may be over £2 billion, since the Government's figures were prepared on the assumption that the miners' strike did not drag on into the new year.

Even if the Government's estimates are correct, public expenditure will have risen by

6.5 per cent this year, 1.75 per cent faster than inflation. To get back on track, the Government is planning to increase spending by only 3.1 per cent in 1985-86, which means a real cut compared with its inflation forecast of 4.5 per cent in each of the following years.

There will be wide differences between programmes. Social security expenditure is expected to rise 25 per cent between 1983-84 and 1987-88.

The number of pensioners is expected to rise, and the White Paper makes the "assumption" that adult jobless will average three million in 1985-86 and the two following years, with an increasing proportion dependent on supplementary benefit.

Spending on health and personal social services is to remain constant in real terms in 1985-86, after allowing for the income from higher prescription charges, and rise again slightly in the following years.

Defence costs are expected to peak this year and next, as the Nato commitment to an annual 3 per cent real increase comes to an end, with real cuts thereafter.

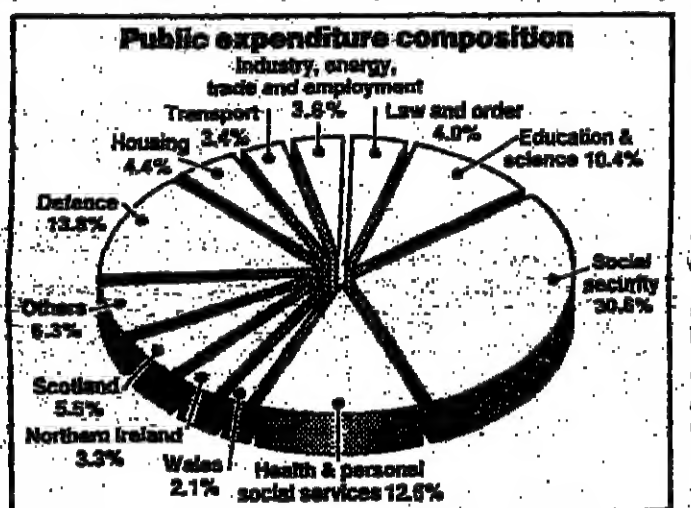
Spending on industry, energy, trade and employment as a whole is planned to fall dramatically, to less than half today's real level by 1987-88, arousing fears of steep increases in state industry charges. But employment programmes are being expanded.

Housing costs, net of proceeds from sales, are also being cut sharply between 1983-84 and 1987-88 - a real reduction of about a quarter.

Capital spending by the public sector as a whole is planned to decline in real terms each year until 1987-88. This was particularly criticized by both Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's economic spokesman, who said the White Paper offered nothing to the unemployed, and Mr Richard Wright, Liberal spokesman on the economy, who called them "fraud on the nation's children".

Local authorities, which have this year spent about £1.2 billion more than the Government allowed for in its previous White Paper last spring, are expected to reduce their expenditure by £1 billion in 1985-86.

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Banks step in to check dollar's rise

By Peter Wilson-Smith
and Bailey Morris

European central banks joined forces yesterday to reign back the dollar and support their own currencies in the foreign exchange markets ahead of figures showing that the United States economy last year grew at the fastest rate for three decades.

The dollar had been rising in anticipation of the strong economic statistics when about half-a-dozen central banks, including the Bank of England, stepped in. They succeeded in pushing the dollar back and their action took the pressure off the pound which had sunk as low as \$1.1150 and was looking shaky. Sterling recovered sharply although still ended the day 10 points lower at \$1.1243 and unchanged at 71.3 on the sterling index.

President Reagan had hinted at the strong US growth figures at the inaugural ball he attended on Monday night. They showed that a stronger-than-estimated final quarter had contributed to the 6.8 per cent growth in the economy in 1984. This was the biggest rise in gross national product since 1951 and there was also encouraging news on the inflation front.

Inflation, as measured by the accompanying price index, ran at only 3.7 per cent in 1984. This was the smallest rise in prices for 17 years.

There was unconfirmed speculation that Wall Street, which had surged 34 points on Monday and was still pushing ahead modestly in early trade yesterday, had an inkling of the economic figures.

The US buying spree spread to London yesterday and the FT index jumped 20.6 points to reach a new record of 1024.5.

The dollar had risen to 3.1846 against the Deutsche mark before the joint move, which dealers said could have involved dollar sales of \$250 million or more. Although it fell back 2.4 pence, the dollar was back over DM 3.17 by midday in the New York markets.

Dealers said that there was considerable nervousness about pushing the dollar up now that central banks had shown their determination to intervene.

US growth, page 17

Five more years to pay for Trident

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Government has decided to spread the rocketing costs of the Trident nuclear deterrent system, now estimated at more than £10 billion, over 20 years instead of the initial 15 years.

The one-third increase in the timetable means that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, can balance his hard-pressed defence budget, but critics are bound to wonder how far the programme can be stretched if Trident's costs continue to escalate.

As far as the Ministry of Defence is concerned, the important issue is to maintain Trident expenditure at an average of 3 per cent of the defence budget.

Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill, who was informed of the changing time table in a written Commons reply, said yesterday: "It is a sign of how embarrassed the Government is by pressure against Trident that they should indulge in such sleight of hand."

"I think that this makes progress, from 15 years to 20 years, is astonishing. Ministers are so desperate that they will push the programme further and further into the future."

The 1982 Statement on Defence Estimates, which raised the cost of the system from £5.99 billion to £7.5 billion, said it would cost on average about £500 million a year over 15

years, or about 3 per cent of the total defence budget over the period when it would be introduced.

Last year's defence statement, raising the cost to £8.7 billion, gave no time scale, but Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said during last November's Navy debate that: "Procurement had been extended over about 18 years."

In his reply to Mr Alton, last Friday, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said the procurement period was now about 20 years and would account on average for about 3 per cent of the defence budget.

The whole truth had not emerged during the Bristol trial, he said. "We wrote to the police offering to assist in their inquiries but this offer was not taken up. Our evidence could have been made available to either the prosecution or the defence at the trial, but neither side chose to call it. As a result we have been unable to refute the statements made about us."

Commenting on a statement by defence counsel that The Observer had misled the police in its search for Williams, Mr Trefford said that when that witness, a police officer, was called, he said that the newspaper had been as helpful as it felt it could be in the circumstances. Trial report, page 3

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Paper plans: Mr Peter Rees presenting the public spending White Paper (Photograph: John Manning).

'Observer' defends corruption case role

By Our Legal Affairs
Correspondent

The Attorney General has informed The Observer newspaper that it is to be prosecuted for corruption in relation to offences for which a senior Ministry of Defence weapons expert was sentenced yesterday to six months imprisonment.

The prosecution comes after Mr Raymond Williams, aged 38, of Kingsmead West, Bath, was found guilty of corruptly receiving a total of £1,500 from The Observer in return for information he gave the newspaper while a senior executive officer at the Directorate of Weapons, Resources and Programmes.

It is understood that a decision will also be made within a few days on whether further charges should be brought against individuals at the newspapers.

Last night its editor, Mr Donald Trefford, defended its actions and said that it had been the subject of a "series of unfounded allegations" and "many untrue and misleading statements" about its methods and motives and integrity of its staff.

Asserting that "at no stage have we acted improperly" he said that the newspaper had evidence, some of it in documentary form, that "gives overwhelming support for our position".

The whole truth had not emerged during the Bristol trial, he said. "We wrote to the police offering to assist in their inquiries but this offer was not taken up. Our evidence could have been made available to either the prosecution or the defence at the trial, but neither side chose to call it. As a result we have been unable to refute the statements made about us."

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Working miners in Yorkshire may quit NUM

From Peter Davenport, Wakefield

The first tentative signs of a breakaway union movement in Mr Arthur Scargill's traditional heartland of the Yorkshire coalfield, began to emerge yesterday. After the setback in hopes of peace talks miners who have returned to work in the area are now openly threatening to leave the National Union of Mineworkers.

Over the past few weeks working miners have been meeting in secret to discuss the possibility of quitting the union and joining the new organization that will emerge in Nottinghamshire if that area is expelled from the national union later this month.

The moves will come to a head today when the men make their plans known at a press conference due to take place after a meeting with Mr Spencer Batiste, Conservative MP for the Yorkshire constituency of Elmet. They had also hoped for a senior official of the National Coal Board to attend but last night the board in Yorkshire said it had no plans to send anyone.

Last night one of the men behind the move Mr Terry Moore - an underground diesel engine driver at Allerton Bywater and the second NUM member to go back to work in Yorkshire - said: "If Nottinghamshire go, then we will follow them. And I am sure the majority of the miners now back at work will do so."

Today about 40 representatives from working pits in the North and South Yorkshire areas have been called to a meeting organized by Mr Ron

Catherall, a COSA member at Acton Hall colliery near Featherstone who has worked throughout the 46 weeks of the strike. Mr Catherall works processing concessionary coal supplies for 8,500 pensioners in the area. He is an official of the Conservative Trade Unionist movement, vice chairman of its energy group, and well known locally for his opposition to the strike.

He said he had been asked to help organize the meeting by Mr Moore and another working miner at Allerton Bywater, Mr Charles Pointon, a welder.

Mr Catherall said that a meeting held 10 days ago and attended by 150 working miners from throughout the Yorkshire coalfield was addressed by Mr Colin Clark of the National Working Miners' Committee. The first question everyone asked was how could they join the new federation in Nottinghamshire.

There was a feeling that if there are going to be two unions with one headed by Mr Scargill "then they would rather be in the other one," said Mr Catherall.

Mr Pointon said: "I think the Yorkshire NUM are in for a shock when they realize the depth of feeling against them."

"If Nottinghamshire go then so do we. But if the area is not expelled then we will stay in the union and work for the removal of Mr Scargill."

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Cost of strike, page 5

Ethiopia hushes up outbreak of cholera in refugee camps

From Paul Valley, Addis Ababa

officials of the Government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission are refusing to admit that the disease is cholera. The camp's senior doctor, Dr Zekariam Hawaz, told me: "It is just acute diarrhoea and acute vomiting. When diarrhoea is that profuse they go into shock. It mimics the symptoms of cholera. They come down dramatically after fluids are given intravenously."

In the few minutes that it took him to state his case, four more victims were carried on stretchers into the open-sided hut which serves as his surgery. Three seemed lifeless. The fourth was a woman who lay like a bundle of sticks beneath a blanket and slowly opened and closed her mouth as if in noiseless weeping. Her dehydrated body could provide no tears to ease her suffering.

Western doctors in the camps and at relief agency supply centres in Addis Ababa were more forthright in their diagnosis. One, who had

specialized in treating cholera in other Third World countries, was in no doubt. "It is a devastating disease. There is no mistaking it. In situations like this it just cuts through people like a scythe. But the Government here want to keep it quiet."

Private laboratory tests conducted by the French Medical organization, Médecins sans frontières, confirmed that the disease was cholera, he said.

Few observers are surprised at the outbreak of a disease like this in Harbo. The camp is a collection of more than 300 tents only a few hundred yards from the main road, six hours' drive north of Addis Ababa. Its inhabitants are hopelessly overcrowded, 15 or 20 to a tent made for eight. Water is in short supply - the camp has to share a well and pump designed only to cater for fewer than half the number who use it now.

Continued on back page, col 3

Princess Anne in Epsom race

By Alan Hamilton

Princess Anne, already an accomplished horsewoman over the jumps, is to ride her first flat race in April when she takes part in a charity event over the Derby course at Epsom.

The Princess, who is this year's Master of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, will compete with 15 other equestrian celebrities, as yet unnamed, in the Farriers' Invitation Private Sweepstake, a strictly one-off race intended to raise money for Riding For The Disabled.

The Princess has never raced before, at least not in public. Her mount, although not yet chosen, will be a racehorse in full training.

The Princess will be sponsored by the Farriers' Company, and the organizers, after deducting prize money, hope to raise £25,000 for the charity.

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Coal board tries for peace talks as drift back continues

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board last night battled to keep alive the prospect of peace talks in the 46-week miners' strike, as more than 600 men abandoned the stoppage and the biggest pit in Northumberland resumed production.

The Trades Union Congress general council will this morning meet to determine whether the wider labour movement can give further help to the National Union of Mineworkers, and promote a resumption of the peace process that broke down yet again two nights ago.

They meet against a background of growing uncertainty within the executive of the miners' union on how the miners can make their strike stick. With 625 "new faces" back at work yesterday, 41 per cent of miners' union members are now defining their leaders, and a serious split over tactics may come to the surface.

Mr Michael Eaton, the coal board's chief spokesman, yesterday appealed to the miners' union to "think again" and return to the negotiating table with a commitment to accept that uneconomic mines had to close.

He, and government ministers, insisted that there had been no ministerial intervention to prevent the "talks about talks" being converted into full-scale bargaining between the two sides for the first time since last October.

"We hope in the interests of

miners, their families and their communities and the industry that they will think again and come to a sensible settlement," Mr Eaton said.

The board wanted to get back into talks with the union, but it did not want to resume negotiations with the miners' union simply sticking to its original hard-line demand that there could be no pit closures on economic grounds.

That theme was taken up in the day by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, who denounced suggestions that there had been government intervention to prevent talks as "a lie" and Mr David Hunt, under-Secretary of State with responsibility for coal, repeated that view.

There was no practical initiative yesterday to bring the two sides together.

The NUM national executive is to meet in Sheffield tomorrow, and it is from there that the next serious step in the conflict is likely to emerge.

By the afternoon shift yesterday, 625 men had gone back to work, bringing the total so far this week to nearly 2,500.

Kinnock told he is afraid of Scargill

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The latest failed attempt at negotiations to end the coal strike brought angry exchanges between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Neil Kinnock drew to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's attention the National Union of Mineworkers' offer to enter negotiations without preconditions.

Mrs Thatcher replied that she had noticed the offer of talks allegedly without preconditions, but that she had noticed also that Mr Arthur Scargill had said again what he said at the start of the dispute, that the industry should not close pits on economic considerations.

Mr Kinnock said the Prime

Minister should test the strength of the miners' understanding by encouraging a return to the negotiating table.

Mrs Thatcher suggested that the initiative lay not with herself but with Mr Kinnock. If he wanted to end the strike, she said, he should ensure that the union withdraw the impossible demand that no uneconomic pits be closed.

Mrs Thatcher said Mr Kinnock should advise the union to accept the settlement terms put forward by the independent conciliation service, Acas. She then swapped insult for insult by taunting Mr Kinnock with being afraid of Scargill.

Parliament, page 4

Miners launch attempt to stop mass picketing

Working miners from South Wales yesterday launched their High Court bid to stop mass picketing in their area. Their counsel, Mr Louis Blom Cooper, QC, said that 20 working miners had brought the action "to ensure their personal rights to go to work unhindered by unlawful picketing". The hearing is expected to last four or five days.

A test case attempt by Mr Nicholas Bland, aged 26, a striking miner, to overturn the decision to the DHSS to stop £16 a week from his supplementary benefit was rejected by two High Court judges yesterday. Lord Justice May, sitting with Mr Justice Taylor, said that they felt that Mr Bland, of Retford, Nottinghamshire, should make his claim through the department's appeals process.

Some Sheffield busmen have voted to defy their union and take working miners to pits in north Derbyshire.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, is to have a private meeting with Mr Ken Coon, general secretary of south Wales NUM, and his executive this morning in a last-ditch attempt to dissuade the area from making rule changes that would shield it from the authority of the national union.

Two haulage companies owned by Mr Richard Read and Mr George Read from Gloucestershire are to take action in the High Court over the alleged picketing of their vehicles by NUM members at the Maxheat smelter fuel plant near Llantrisant, Mid-Glamorgan. Action by the firms in August led to the sequestration of South Wales NUM funds.

The TGWU and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers could each have to pay up to £250,000 in damages if

Jobs threat to rail blacking of coal

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Trade union leaders and British Rail yesterday agreed a week's "breathing space" to see if any fresh initiatives can be bought forward to tackle the growing crisis in the railway freight operations because of the miners' strike.

A meeting of the Rail Council, the industry's top consultative body, adjourned after Mr Bob Reid, chairman, of British Rail, made clear that he expected the unions to drop their "blacking" of the carriage of coal and iron ore.

Union leaders leaving the meeting gave no indication that they are prepared to drop the action in the support of the miners, but senior BR managers are cautiously optimistic that there will be a revision of the unions' policy in the face of the threat of more than 600 jobs losses.

British Rail outlined the serious financial difficulties that have arisen because of the miners' strike, with revenue losses now amounting to more than £200 million. About 25 per cent of the 600,000 tonnes of coal being moved by rail at the moment could be moved by rail if the unions dropped their action, the management claims.

The unions are expected to hold a meeting with the National Union of Mineworkers to discuss the BR threat to cut jobs and are hoping that there will be significant developments in the pits dispute which could influence their attitude at next week's re-convened meeting.

Civil Service union leaders claimed last night that two-thirds of the 7,000 staff at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) had either boycotted a ballot on the establishment of staff association or voted against it.

The secret ballot at Cheltenham listening station and its outposts recorded 58.1 per cent of those voting in favour of the proposed constitution for the staff association and 41.6 per cent against. There was a 66.1 per cent response in the ballot.

The Council of Civil Service Unions, the umbrella body for the unions which until last March represented 4,500 staff at GCHQ, said that the numbers voting in favour of a staff association, about 2,700 was roughly the same as those who did not belong to a union before the union ban was introduced.

Leaders of all unions with members working in the National Health Service are meeting today to inject new life into the campaign against cuts in services and privatization.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said yesterday that a week of action at the end of April, supported by the Trades Union Congress, would aim to "purge the poison of privatization".

Union leaders are growing increasingly concerned at the level of NHS privatization in some hospitals of work including cleaning, catering and laundry services and the consequent threat to jobs.

The "National Health Focus Week" will involve meetings in hospitals and other workplaces, community events, and lobbies of MPs and local health authority members. The unions are linking the campaign against privatization in the NHS with similar campaigns in local government.

The Union of Communications Workers has called on its members in post offices in London to walk out on half day strike today in protest at plans to close 78 main post offices and 900 sub-offices around the country as part of the Post Office's rationalization plans.

Austin Rover is successful. Union leaders at Cowley walked out of talks with Austin Rover management in protest at the company's decision to continue the court action.

Union leaders from Britain, West Germany, Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal have been called to an emergency meeting of the International Metal Workers' Federation in Geneva on Sunday to discuss reports that Ford is considering closing one of its European car plants (Our Motoring Correspondent writes).



Royal visitor: The Queen visited a village school on royal land yesterday and told the 30 children, that Sandringham House was "a bit of a warren".

The children were having a lesson in styles of architecture in front of a drawing of 274-room Sandringham House. The Queen added: "They just kept adding bits."

The Queen, seen with a teacher, Miss

Elizabeth White, last visited Sandringham and West Newton Primary School with her mother and father 35 years ago. The two-classroom school was built in 1870 by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII).

The 12 infants and 18 juniors were complimented by the Queen, "Victoria Hardingham, aged eight, said: "The Queen told me my handwriting was very good."

SDP talks on plastic bullet policy

By John Winder

The leadership of the Social Democratic Party is determined that the dispute in the party over the banning of plastic bullets should not lead to a big change in its policy-making machinery.

The Council for Social Democracy (CSD) will consider early in its Birmingham meeting at the weekend the policy committee's rejection of the motion the council passed last September at Buxton, after a death attributed to a plastic bullet in Belfast.

This urged the Government to suspend the use of plastic bullets, pending a full inquiry into their use in crowd control. The policy committee accepts the need for an inquiry but does not back the demand for a suspension in the interim.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, has written to the Home Secretary calling for an inquiry into the use of the plastic bullet. The report from the policy committee to the conference this weekend says that several members of the council have argued since September that the motion passed then is SDP policy, because the council had approved it.

"The policy committee took the view that the constitution of the party was deliberately designed to prevent party policy ever being determined without careful deliberation, and that party policy is only made when CSD and the policy committee are agreed."

Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the party, said yesterday that if the CSD sticks to its original decision the policy committee would have to reconsider it, and then a meeting would have to be set up between the participants.

As she sees it, SDP policy is determined by a power-sharing process between policy committee and CSD.

Front-runner in Labour battle

By Larry Whitty, research officer of the General Municipal

Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, emerged last night as the strong front-runner in the contest to be the next general secretary of the Labour Party.

As the national executive committee meets today to draw up a short-list for the post it was indicated that Mr Whitty, secretary of Trades Unions for a Labour Victory Organization, has the backing of Mr Neil Kinnock.

IRA man returns to Commons

By Rupert Morris

Mr Gerry MacLochlainn, one of the convicted IRA terrorists whose visit to the House of Commons last October caused such uproar, was back again yesterday. He said that it was only one of several visits to the House since his release from prison in November 1983.

Mr MacLochlainn said that he had been searched, like everyone else entering the building, but has not apparently been subject to any other special security measures. He had come to a press conference of the Irish in Britain Representation Group "as a member of the Irish community, living in Islington", and not at anyone's express invitation.

News that Mr MacLochlainn was in the House caused an immediate rumour. Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, said that he was "outraged".

"I believe the House of Commons, in the shape of Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, should call a conference of all the party leaders to decide a list of prohibited people who should not be allowed to enter this building."

The Duchess of Kent arrived in Northern Ireland last night on a 24-hour visit. Tight security surrounded the Duchess, making her second visit to the province in a year, as she arrived aboard an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, before transferring by helicopter to Hillsborough Castle.

The Duchess attended a reception for 100 people in the International Youth Centre in Belfast, and was guest of honour last night at a dinner hosted by Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Today she will name a cargo ship, English Star, the first of a £70 million order for the Blue Star Line, at Harland and Wolff in east Belfast.

Mr MacLochlainn would not give his address in Islington, where he says he is a "community worker". He said that since his release from prison, after serving two years and eight months of a four-year sentence for conspiracy to cause explosions, he had visited the House on several occasions, "whenever I wanted to speak to people here".

Out-of-date civil defence advice is revised

By Anthony Berins, Political Correspondent

The Home Office is planning to issue new public guidance on civil defence in time of war completely revising the booklet *Protect and Survive*, which was already out of date when it was published in May 1980.

It has also been decided, that an official film should be produced to counter the sense of despair which might have been provoked by *The Day After*, the American film which was broadcast in December 1983, and *Therac*, the British film about a nuclear winter shown last September.

Government sources said yesterday that the new leaflet, expected in September, would include guidance on protection against conventional warfare as well as the radiation and blast effects of nuclear war.

The new leaflet honours a commitment made by Lord Whitelaw when he was Home Secretary, and Mr Leon Brittan, then Minister of State at the Home Office, in August and October 1980.

Although *Protect and Survive* was published in May 1980, it had been drafted in 1975, and its assumptions about the warning of nuclear war had already been overturned by the April 1980 *Statement on the Defence Estimates*.

The defence paper said: "The amount of warning time NATO might receive before attack could be very limited". *Protect and Survive* had been built on an assumption of a slow build-up to war and Lord Whitelaw said in a Commons statement on 7 August 1980: "Soviet strategists hold that any war in Europe is likely to escalate into a nuclear exchange, though it might start with conventional warfare, and that the warning time we might receive... might, we believe, be measured in days rather than weeks."

Even in 1980 official sources were admitting that *Protect and Survive* had also failed to present a credible case for civil defence, because it was targeted at model families.

It was said at that time by Home Office sources that the balance would have to be addressed towards people such as pensioners and those without savings. The only question that will be raised in the minds of many backbenchers is why it has taken the Government more than four years to meet that requirement, and there were already signs at Westminster last night that MPs would be dismayed by the September target date for publication.

Heritage lobby fights limit on tax deals

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The heritage lobby in and out of Parliament is conducting a fierce battle with the Government over the announcement that only £1m of art works are to be accepted in lieu of tax over the next year.

The scheme allows stately home owners to pay the vast capital transfer tax bills levied at a death by giving art treasures to the nation.

The Government has set a limit of £1m for works of art in 1985 and £1m for land and historic houses. In 1984 the total was £4m and an extra £2m was added to save Calke Abbey.

The announcement comes at a time when Kedleston, worth about £20, is on offer to the nation, the furniture made by Chippendale for Noctell Priory may have to be sold to satisfy a £4m tax bill and Lord Bradford has offered Weston Park to the nation in lieu of tax.

The scheme has been run by the Treasury but from April it is to be taken over by the Museums and Galleries Commission, the national museum watchdog.

Works of art can be accepted in lieu of tax only if they are deemed "pre-eminent" in a national context. Guidelines in judging pre-eminence are:

- Does the object have a specially close association with our history or national life?
- Is the object of special artistic or art-historical interest?
- Is the object of special importance for the study of some particular form of art, learning or history?
- Does the object have a specially close association with a particular historic setting?

Safety laws breached, Sizewell inquiry told

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which issues safety licences for nuclear power stations, was accused by Friends of the Earth yesterday of being in breach of its legal obligations.

Mr John Howell, the barrister representing the environmental pressure group, told the public inquiry into the proposed Sizewell B pressurized water reactor (PWR) that the design should be rejected.

Mr Howell said that the issue of a licence to operate an untried nuclear reactor, as proposed by the Central Electricity Generating Board, should depend upon it meeting British safety standards.

He claimed that the proposed installation did not meet those standards and that the government safety inspectorate had not assessed the design in accordance with the Nuclear Installations Act.

Man held on US fraud charge

A fourth man charged in connection with an alleged fraud involving an estimated \$125 million of stolen US social security cheques, was remanded in custody for a week yesterday, when he appeared at Hove Magistrates' Court in London.

Soo Chee Kim, aged 38, a Malaysian, whose address was given as the Bayswater Motel, Bayswater, west London, is charged with conspiring with others between December 9 and January 14 to procure by deception the execution of US Treasury Department cheques, valued at \$125,275.

Ex-policeman gives himself up

Alan Llewellyn Vaughan, aged 39, of Eastham, Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester, a former policeman, accused of burglary, gave himself up yesterday at Ipswich Crown Court, Suffolk, after 15 years on the run. Vaughan, a former constable with Birmingham city police, appeared before East Suffolk quarter sessions in 1969, but absconded after the first day of his trial. He was found guilty in his absence but sentence was adjourned. Yesterday he was remanded in custody for officials to trace the trial papers.

Referring to figures purporting to show that only one in 40 persons arrested under the Act since 1974 had been charged, Ms Joan Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, said: "This Act has nothing to do with the prevention of terrorism, and everything to do with collecting information, and terrorizing Irish people in this country."

Abolition of the Act, introduced by Mr Roy Jenkins when he was Labour Home Secretary in 1974, is now official Labour Party policy. The Liberal Party also favours abolition, but Liberal MPs are still arguing how this should be done.

Tax threat to holidaymakers

Unexpectedly high passenger taxes to be imposed at Gatwick airport by the British Airports Authority are likely to increase the threat of higher surcharges, which could affect three million holidaymakers.

The Tour Operators Study Group, which represents 17 leading holiday companies, protested yesterday to the authority that the increases of about 15 per cent were double that expected.

Board game protest upheld

Complaints that pictures of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, were used to advertise the board game Trivial Pursuit, are upheld today by the Advertising Standards Authority.

The Treasury complained that the use of the photograph of Mr Lawson, without his permission was "an unjustified commercial exploitation" of his image.

Guidelines on farm pollution

Farmers were issued with a new booklet yesterday that outlines stricter controls to prevent pollution of water supplies by pesticides, fertilisers, slurry, and silage effluent. The booklet, published by the Water Authorities Association, the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association, explains the powers available to water authorities.

Broadway ruling

Plans for the £13 million redevelopment of Hammer-smith Broadway were yesterday told to go ahead when Mr Justice Woolf in the High Court dismissed an application by the Greater London Council for a declaration that the Bredero company's application for planning approval was invalid. The GLC was ordered to pay the costs for the two day hearing.

£20m rejection

An Arab consortium's £20 million plan for a conference and leisure centre at Bowditch-on-Windermere, Cumbria, has been rejected by the parish council, which felt it would spoil the village.

Cruise protest

Five women arrested for obstruction yesterday morning as they tried to prevent a cruise missile launcher from passing through Devizes, Wiltshire, were released after questioning.

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Observer faces charge after weapons expert is jailed for corruption

From Tim Jones, Bristol

The Observer newspaper has been told that it is to be prosecuted for corruption in relation to offences for which a senior Ministry of Defence weapons expert was yesterday sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

Raymond Williams, aged 38, of Kingsmead West, Bath, had pleaded not guilty at Bristol Crown Court to two charges of corruptly receiving a total of £1,500 from The Observer in return for information given while he was a senior executive officer at the Directorate of Weapons, Resources and programmes.

His wife, who was in court with their daughter aged six weeks, as sentences was passed. After the case the Attorney General's office said: "Observer Newspapers have been informed that they are to be prosecuted although they have also been told that if any fresh evidence arose during the course of the trial the decision would be reviewed in the light of the evidence."

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Talbot told Williams: "There may be some who hold the view, which I believe to be mistaken, that loyalties between employer and employee are not

so highly prized as they used to be.

"Whether that is so or not, the law steps in when an employee in breach of his loyalty corruptly passes on to another for money his employer's private information."

He said that Williams was not facing official secrets charges but had been employed as a trusted civil servant by a department vital to Britain.

Mr Paul Chad, QC, for the defence said that it was a tragic case because his client was not an inherently evil man. Pressures of debt appeared to have "decomposed" Williams' backbone. For the sake of stooping to accept money that was being dangled before him for information he has ruined himself.

The court had been told that Williams, deeply in debt, had approached The Observer. He met Mr Patrick Bishop, a reporter, and handed documents to him which became part of two articles about defence expenditure published in the newspaper.

Mr Chad said that if Williams had been corrupt he could have passed over classified information which would have meant more money for him and "a field day" for The Observer.

Williams, he said, could have told the newspaper of faulty Special Air Service equipment during the Falklands conflict, stops the Royal Navy had taken to contain the Argentine navy during the fighting and unnecessary expenditure on storage of Trident missiles. Mr Chad maintained that the documents Williams had passed on were "trivial".

He said that Williams had offered the newspaper the information in an attempt to be taken on as a defence consultant. "The newspaper told him nothing of its intention to publish the article in which material from the two documents was used. By doing so they ended his administrative career without the slightest intention of giving him any kind of employment."

Mr Bishop, it was alleged, when told it was a defence matter, said that the newspaper's editor would contact the police.

Later that evening a person describing himself as the editor of The Observer rang the detective and said: "I don't know that person nor has money been paid to him. All I can say is that a man of that description has been seen in London alive and well today."

Embryo research authority proposed

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Medical Research Council is to set up a voluntary licensing authority to control research on human embryos, as an interim measure before the Government legislates on the recommendations of the Warnock report.

The move was announced yesterday in an attempt to allay public fears about embryo research in the increasingly emotive run-up to Mr Enoch Powell's Private Member's Bill which is expected to propose a ban on all human embryo research. The Bill, yet to be published, is to be debated in Parliament next month.

The Council proposes to set up a body with a lay chairman, and a "strong" lay membership - perhaps a third of the total - with scientific expertise drawn from the Council itself and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, whose members are the doctors involved in test-tube baby research and treatment.

The body will adopt most of the recommendations of the Warnock report for a statutory authority to control research, licensing individual centres, about 20 in all at present, and individual workers. The 14-day limit recommended by Warnock will be applied and research will be approved project by project.

A code of practice will be drawn up and members of the Council's "authority" will inspect laboratories to ensure compliance with the code and licence conditions.

Although the lay members

will be chosen by the council, Sir James Gowans, secretary of the council, said he believed it would have "very considerable clout".

Embryo research in Britain had been conducted in an open field where well known to each other and doctors and scientists would not want to go beyond the limits the "authority" set. Everything would be published, he said, and refusals or withdrawals of licences announced.

The council had acted because there was obviously going to be a vacuum before the Government legislated and it believed a voluntary authority with lay representation would provide "self-regulation".

"The council yesterday published detailed justification of the need for research - arguing that the success rate of the test-tube baby procedure, in which only about one in 10 women become pregnant, could not be improved without research."

Studies on fertilization and early development of embryos could provide answers to male infertility, improved conception and better ways of detecting and preventing inherited abnormalities such as spina bifida, and Down's syndrome.

In spite of its backing for a 14-day limit on research, the Council in its formal response to the Warnock report argues that the limit should not be written into legislation, but contained in a code of practice.

It should also be expressed as a stage in the embryo's development, rather than as 14 days.

Spending on food lowest since 1953

The British family is spending less of its income on food, clothing, and shoes than at any time in the past 30 years, according to government figures published yesterday.

But it is having to pay a higher proportion of its budget on housing, fuel, light, and power than since 1953, when regular surveys began.

The statistics, published in the Family Expenditure Survey refer to 1983 and show how much is spent as a proportion of the total household expenditure. The figures are the latest available.

Spending on tobacco in the family budget has fallen by more than half in the past 30 years and has remained steady at about 3 per cent since 1980. The "average" number of people per household was at its lowest recorded level at 2.66 in 1983 compared with a high of 3.18 in 1953.

But average family spending increased ahead of inflation, up to £142.59 a week in 1983, a 6 per cent rise on 1982 when inflation increased by 4.6 per cent. In 1952 it was £120.1 a week.

However, in the North weekly spending was £119.14 per cent less than the national average, while in the South-east it was £156.30, 13 per cent above the average.

In the North-west the average spending on alcohol was £7.19 a week, compared with East Anglia, where it was just £4.70. Fish and chips were most popular in Yorkshire and Humberside, where families spent an average 51p a week.



Home entertainment: Children making use of flood water in York.

Roads freeze after thaw

By David Cross

Heavy snow and gale-force winds gripped northern and central Scotland yesterday as the continuing thaw, combined with overnight frost, made driving hazardous in many parts of northern and western England.

In Scotland, where snowdrifts up to two feet deep blocked a number of roads, about 70,000 homes were

without electricity as strong winds brought down power lines covered with frozen snow. Many schools were closed for the day and 29 vehicles were abandoned on the A9.

One of the main roads to Glasgow, the A74 south of Glasgow, was described by the Automobile Association as very dangerous, with strong crosswinds and driving snow. Both the Forth and Tay bridges had speed restrictions.

The RAC reported a spate of minor accidents as black ice formed on roads in Hampshire and Dorset.

In parts of Yorkshire and Kent, floods brought on by the sudden thaw stranded a number of families and left roads under three feet of water. In York workmen battled through the night building sandbag barricades as a tributary of the river Ouse overflowed.

Armed raid bravery of WPC

A policewoman tackled a gang of armed raiders single-handed even though she knew they were carrying a sawn-off shotgun which had just been fired during a Post Office raid, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Miss Karen Kinger aged 27, attached to Harlesden police station, North-west London, ran up to the getaway car when it stopped in heavy traffic and ordered the three occupants to surrender. The court was told, she dived through the window and wrestled with the driver as he accelerated forward and then reversed, dragging her along.

"But she still managed to handcuff the driver and arrest him. It was one of those extreme feats of bravery which we only hear of now and again," Mr. Fergus Mitchell, for the prosecution said. The other two passengers escaped, leaving a shotgun behind, but one was captured later, he said.

Geoffrey Roper, aged 26, of Hazlewood Road, Harlesden and Anthony Gordon, aged 25, of Commercial Way, Peckham, South London, denied attempted robbery and possession of a firearm. Roper also denied assaulting Miss Kinger to resist arrest.

Mr Mitchell told the jury that a robbery at a post office in Burnley Road, Harlesden, was followed when the postmaster set off the alarm. A shot was fired into the ceiling before the raiders fled. Shortly afterwards Miss Kinger heard about the shooting on her radio and "went into action".

Mr Roper was alleged to have said: "She grabbed my keys; I had to get away. She was very brave." The trial continues today.

Princess 'better'

Princess Margaret is making good progress after her recent lung operation but will not undertake any engagements until March 23, Kensington Palace announced yesterday.

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Mr Roper was alleged to have said: "She grabbed my keys; I had to get away. She was very brave." The trial continues today.

Poison cloud caused by tanker mix-up

A cloud of chlorine gas which put 16 people in hospital in West Yorkshire was caused by a series of errors, misunderstandings and muddles, a factory inspector said yesterday.

Mr Ian Wright told Huddersfield magistrates that a chemical company in Slithwaite had been expecting a delivery of sodium hypochlorite, a bleach, but received ferric chloride instead.

It arrived in a road tanker from Manchester with warning panels saying it was carrying sodium hypochlorite. But the correct tanker was in Liverpool.

Mr Wright said that as the driver began to unload the chemical into the bleach storage tank at the Britannia works of Hays Chemicals a large cloud of poisonous chlorine gas was generated by the reaction of the two chemicals on each other.

Employees and passers-by had to flee and houses were evacuated. The situation was made worse by the fact that the emergency services did not know what was in the tanker.

It was two hours before they discovered that it was ferric chloride and six hours before people were allowed back home. Mr Wright said that 29 people were taken to hospital.

Father killed boy in fit of temper

From Our Correspondent Winchester

Mark Horscroft, aged three and a half, was put into the care of his father after his mother's lover assaulted him. But within nine months Mark was killed in a fit of temper by his father, David Horscroft, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

His father, aged 31, a lorry driver, gave up work to look after Mark and his brother, Alexander, aged five. He was jailed yesterday for five years after admitting to unlawfully killing his son.

Mr John McNaught, for the prosecution, said that Mark's mother, Mrs Nadia Horscroft, left her home in Marlowe Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, in 1982, and took her two sons to London to live with her lover, Mr Harold Gomez.

Mr McNaught added that Mark was beaten by Mr Gomez and taken to hospital with very severe injuries and detained for 18 days.

David Horscroft was granted custody of both his sons in December, 1983. In July, 1984, Mark was taken to hospital with a fractured arm.

On September 3 last year Mark was taken to hospital with severe head injuries and bruises. He died September 5.

Bishops prepare for Synod

Remarriages in church after divorce ruled out

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The bishop of the Church of England yesterday killed off the latest scheme for remarrying divorcees in the church. It is the second time a scheme has been drawn up, adopted by the General Synod, and then withdrawn because of adverse reaction among ordinary churchmen.

At a meeting of the House of Bishops in London they decided by a majority that opinion in the dioceses was too strongly opposed to justify bringing the proposals forward.

Only 12 of the 43 diocesan synods which had passed judgement on the scheme were in favour.

The bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, has stated before the bishops' meeting that he believed they should persevere with it. He is one of several bishops who are expected to respond to the scheme's demise by authorizing their clergy to conduct second marriages at their discretion. That is virtually the case already in the dioceses of Birmingham and Southwark.

The end of the second scheme leaves the Church of England with no policy on the

remarriage of divorcees, and little prospect of one at a national level.

There are nevertheless two further developments expected: the authorization in due course of a so-called "service of blessing" for a couple after a civil marriage; and the report of a committee which has been considering the relationship between the church's teaching on the indissolubility of marriage, and recent changes in the law to permit divorce after one year.

There is some expectation in the church that the committee may recommend the severance of the close ties between church and state on marriage. Church marriage would instead be available only for those who were prepared to accept a "Christian" conception of marriage as lifelong.

The most likely outcome is a period of reflection to see how practice develops pastorally, and whether there is enthusiasm for an official "blessing" service after civil marriage.

In that case, for the next few years the prospect of a divorced person being allowed a second marriage in church will depend very much on the view of the local clergymen.

Church jobs plan to go to MPs

Parliament should be asked again to approve the Church of England measure which it rejected last July after a late-night backbench ambush organized by Mr Enoch Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for South Down, according to the standing committee of the church's General Synod.

The Appointment of Bishops Measure, which was designed to simplify the procedure for installing a bishop in office, was approved by the General Synod in 1983 by 233 to 8.

It went before the House of Commons after acceptance by the Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament and was defeated there by 32 votes to 17. It was the first time the House of Commons had rejected a measure, and precipitated a crisis between the two bodies.

At its meeting next month the General Synod will be advised by its standing committee to return the measure for approval unamended. Mr Powell said yesterday that he thought it "premature" to comment, though in his speech to the House last July he declared that there were profound issues of principle at stake.

The standing committee discussed Mr Powell's views at length, and decided they could not be accommodated. However it was noted that most other MPs who spoke did not endorse his view, but used the debate to attack various aspects of the church, such as the theological and political opinions of certain bishops, particularly the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins.

The General Synod is due to debate two of those issues shortly, the standing committee clearly hopes that parliamentarians will consider themselves to have been heeded by the church.

The majority view of the standing committee, expressed in a report to the synod, was that the ancient procedures for approving the appointment of bishops, in particular election by dean and chapter with only one candidate nominated by the Crown, were absurd and obsolete.

On the Resurrection he said: "It doesn't seem to me that there was any one event which you could identify, but it wasn't a question of people making things up out of their wishes. There was more of a sense to it than just my imagination or St Peter's imagination." He said it was not a miraculous event in the commonly understood sense; but the way the Apostles came to believe that Jesus had risen could be called a miracle.

Since then he has elaborated his views without substantially altering them, while emphasizing that he totally believes that Jesus was God-made-flesh as defined in the Creeds.

Issues of faith in the open

The Bishop of Durham's principal opponent, the Rev David Holloway of Newcastle upon Tyne, praised him yesterday for forcing the Church of England to face difficult issues of faith.

The Right Rev David Jenkins' reinterpretation of the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection was welcome because the problem had previously been swept under the carpet, Mr Holloway said.

Mr Holloway is the originator of a "gravamen" or statement of grievance which has obliged the General Synod's business managers to arrange a full-scale debate on these doctrinal issues.

Mr Holloway wishes the House of Bishops to affirm that the Church believes Jesus was virginally conceived, with no human biological father; and that the Resurrection was a real event in the sense that the tomb was empty afterwards and Jesus's physical remains are not still on Earth.

The Bishop Durham's original statements were made before his consecration in an interview with the London Weekend Television programme *Creeds* last April.

On the Virgin Birth, he said he was "pretty clear" it was a story told after the event to express and symbolize the faith that Jesus was a unique event from God.

On the Resurrection he said: "It doesn't seem to me that there was any one event which you could identify, but it wasn't a question of people making things up out of their wishes. There was more of a sense to it than just my imagination or St Peter's imagination." He said it was not a miraculous event in the commonly understood sense; but the way the Apostles came to believe that Jesus had risen could be called a miracle.

Since then he has elaborated his views without substantially altering them, while emphasizing that he totally believes that Jesus was God-made-flesh as defined in the Creeds.

Post offices to get cash dispensers

By Peter Wilson-Smith

National Girobank is installing cash dispensers outside main post offices as part of a shared network being set up with 20 other financial institutions including the Abbey National and Nationwide societies.

The aim of the joint venture, called Link, is to have a national network of about 1,000 cash machines in place by the end of next year. Customers of the 21 banks and building societies involved will be able to use any of the Link machines to withdraw cash or make balance inquiries.

The other big participants in Link are the Co-operative Bank and a consortium called Funds Transfer Sharing (FTS) which includes American Express and Citibank Savings, the retail arm of the big American bank.

The group has banded together to spread the cost of the network, which is estimated at £15-20 million. The move represents another challenge to the big clearing banks. Although some other building societies have already installed cash dispensers, none yet has a network to rival the clearing banks.

National Giro, the banking subsidiary of the Post Office, will be first off the mark installing machines. The first, in Liverpool, will be working by the end of March and 50 of the planned 180 will be in by the summer. Abbey National has 220 machines on order, the Co-operative Bank plans 50, the Nationwide 120 and FTS about 220.

The Link members are keen to bring in other participants and hope eventually to join up with other automatic teller machine networks. They expect to have about four million customers using the system within two and a half years.

Acorn fights back in computer price war

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

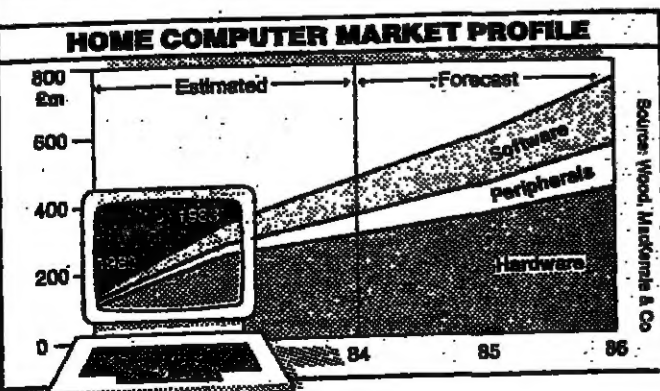
The High Street home computer price war intensified yesterday when Acorn Computers reduced the price of its Electron computer by a third (£70) and offered £50 to anyone who traded in any computer against the BBC model.

The price reductions are Acorn's response to Sinclair who reduced the Spectrum Plus by £50. Both machines will retail at about £130. The trade-in offer is an attempt to ensure that anyone wanting to upgrade their existing computer would buy a BBC Microcomputer. If successful, that strategy could

put considerable pressure on Sinclair and Commodore.

Acorn is reacting to press speculation that it had not achieved its sales targets. According to the company its sales during the Christmas period were at an all-time high it says 100,000 BBC Microcomputers and Electrons were sold during the period giving the company total sales of £20,000 for 1984.

Total home computer sales in 1984 were 1.7 million with a value of £315 million, according to a report published yesterday by the stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie.



BBC chiefs to put £65 licence case

By David Cross

Senior BBC executives are to go on the air next week to argue the corporation's case for a £65 colour television licence fee and against the acceptance of advertising to finance its programmes.

Mr Stuart Young, chairman of the BBC, will take part in a Radio 4 debate about the future of public service broadcasting on Sunday, and on Tuesday Radio 4 listeners will be able to cross-examine Mr Alasdair

Milne, the director-general, in a phone-in programme.

In a speech in Cardiff earlier this week Mr Milne told businessmen "that programme standards could not conceivably remain the same if the entire national broadcasting system were based on advertising revenue and if all broadcasters had to turn to the same pot of gold for their finance."

He added: "We are thus united at the BBC, from top to

bottom, in rejecting advertising as either an exclusive or partial means of financing our kind of public service broadcasting operation."

"We are united, not at all out of some office-nosed horror of the supposed vulgarity of commerce which a tiny advertising lobby seeks to ascribe to us, but out of the deep conviction that there ought to remain in Britain one sector in which programmes are not interrupted."

New rates from Nationwide

(From 1st February 1985)

	Net
Share Accounts	7.50%
FlexAccounts	7.50%
Bonus-7 Accounts	8.75%
Super Bonus Accounts	9.00%
Bonus-90 Accounts	9.25%
Capital Bonds (23rd Issue)	9.25%
The rate of interest on all existing Capital Bonds will be increased by 0.75% from 1 February 1985. The guaranteed extra interest paid on all existing Capital Bonds continues unchanged.	
Subscription Share Accounts	8.50%
Deposit Accounts	7.25%
Mortgage Accounts - New Advances	
The rate of interest charged on repayment mortgages for new owner occupier borrowers is 12.875% from 21 January 1985.	
Mortgage Accounts - Existing Mortgages	
The rate of interest charged on existing repayment loans for owner occupier borrowers will be 12.875% with effect from 1 February 1985.	
Higher rates arising from endowment and pension linked mortgages will continue to apply.	

Nationwide Building Society

New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW

PUBLIC SPENDING

Impact of miners' strike

Asset sales targets

Health charges rise

White Paper a restatement of unchanged strategy, Rees says

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The Government yesterday reaffirmed its policy of attempting to hold public spending constant in real terms, and reducing the public sector's share of the economy.

Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the public expenditure White Paper, covering the three years to 1987-88, represented "a restatement of the Government's unchanged strategy for public expenditure". He added: "Constancy is the single most important theme."

The plans are for a reduction in the percentage of public expenditure to gross domestic product from

42.5 per cent in the current year, 1984-85, to 39.5 per cent in 1987-88.

If successful, that would mean that the Government had restored public spending's share of the economy to the level it inhabited in 1979-80.

Success in achieving it is regarded as crucial to the Government's tax-cutting plans. Unless public spending can be held constant in real terms while the economy grows, the White Paper says, reducing the tax burden may not be possible.

The public spending planning total for 1984-85 has been revised up to £128.1 billion, from the February 1984 White Paper planned level of £126.4 billion. The coal strike, which has cost

£1.5 billion, together with local authority overspending and higher social security costs, are the main reasons for the overrun.

The White Paper is based on the outdated assumption of an end-December settlement for the coal strike, suggesting that the eventual 1984-85 overrun will be larger than the £1.7 billion currently estimated.

The timing of the strike settlement will also affect spending in 1985-86, planned at £132.1 billion, unchanged from the last White Paper.

In constant, 1983-84 prices, spending is planned to fall from £122.3 billion this year to £120.7 billion in 1985-86, its percentage of gross domestic product de-

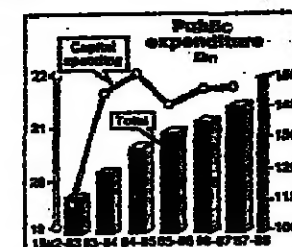
Planning total by spending authority

	1983-84 outturn	1984-85 estimated outturn	1985-86 plans	1986-87 plans	1987-88 plans
1 Central government	85.4	92.4	96.5	98.8	103.2
2 Local authorities	33.0	34.1	35.1	34.2	34.8
3 Public corporations					
a Nationalised industries:					
- borrowing from Government	0.5	-0.4	0.8	-0.3	-0.8
- market and overseas borrowing (net)	-0.1	0.8	-1.6	-1.2	-1.0
- grants	1.3	2.8	2.0	1.6	1.6
b Life and public corporations	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
c Special sales of assets	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
d Reserves	-1.1	-2.0	-2.5	-2.2	-2.2
e General allowances for shortfall		-0.5	3.0	4.0	5.0
Planning total	120.3	128.1	132.1	128.7	141.5

clining from 42.5 to 41 per cent.

Social security is the biggest public expenditure

category, rising from £37.9 billion this year to £44 billion in 1987-88. The Government has



assumed that adult unemployment remains unchanged at three million, plus 170,000 school leavers, adult students and temporarily stopped workers. Public spending is boosted by £200 million a year for every 100,000 unemployment in 1985-86.

Social security spending is planned to rise by 5.7 per cent in 1985-86, 4.6 per cent

in 1986-87 and 4.8 per cent in 1987-88, because of uprating and increased numbers of claimants. The inflation assumption used for uprating purposes is that the retail prices index will rise by 4.75 per cent in May 1984 and May 1985, and 4 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively in the following two years.

Defence, the next largest programme, is planned to decline in real terms from current levels. Over the four years 1983-84 to 1987-88, the defence budget in cash terms is scheduled to rise by 22 per cent.

However, after allowing for inflation and the carry-forward of spending from earlier years, real defence spending in 1987-88 is

planned to fall by 2.5 per cent from this year's level.

That is despite the fact that the Government intends to meet its Nato commitment of a 3 per cent real defence spending rise.

The health and personal social services budget is planned to expand by £380 million in 1985-86, £628 million in 1986-87 and £628 million in 1987-88.

Other major cash increases over the four-year period are in law and order, up 21 per cent, and transport 10 per cent.

In real terms, the only programmes to show a rise between this year's estimated outturn and 1987-88 are social security and health and personal social services.

HEALTH

Pointer to big rises in prescription and dental charges

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Big increases in prescription and dental charges, plus smaller increases still ahead of the rate of inflation in National Health Service pay bed charges are foreshadowed in the white paper.

An increase in April of nearly 25 per cent in the present prescription charge of £1.60 to £1.95 or £2.00 looks likely, with similar increases in dental charges that will take the maximum payable for routine treatment from £14.50 to about £18, and for the most complex treatment from £110 to about £135.

The move would make it cheaper for patients not exempt from charges to buy a significant proportion of drugs they are prescribed direct from the prescription charge. That, however, would need a private prescription for which doctors usually charge.

In the two years 1986-88, prescription and dental charges are set to rise again as roughly twice the rate of inflation, taking prescription charges to £2.30 and £2.30 and the maximum for the most complex dental treatment to about £150.

The increases recall the announcement by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, at

last year's Conservative Party conference that the Government had "stopped feeling quite so guilty about charging policy".

There are no plans for new charges, or changes in the exemptions from existing charges. The increases are hinted at, however, by the fact that the Government expects to raise £371 million from charges next year. That is £33 million more than in the present year, but at the same time it is to lose about £35 million in charges for NHS spectacles which are being discontinued for all except the poor from April 1.

Pay bed charges are also set to rise, up by approaching 8 per cent when inflation is only 4.75 per cent. In 1986-87 an increase of just less than 10 per cent is likely when inflation is expected to be 4 per cent.

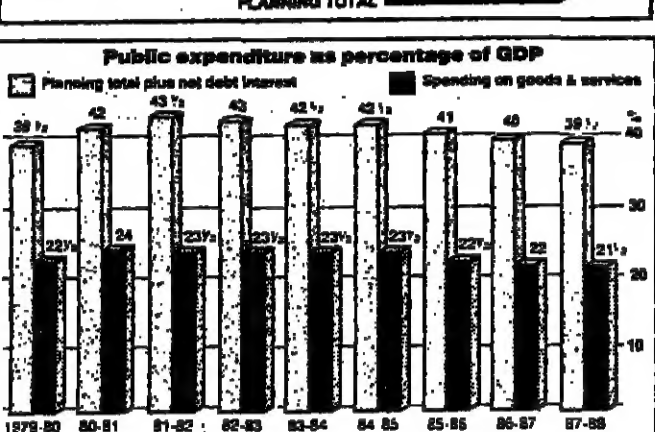
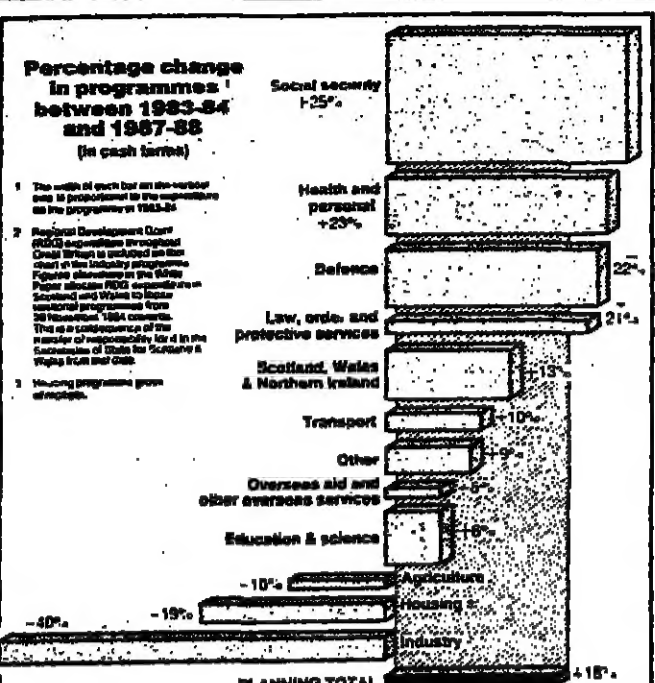
Spending on family practitioner services - GPs, dentists and opticians, will be £100 million more next year than projected in last year's white paper, due to revised forecasts of demand. But spending has been cut back by the £80 million the Government expects to save from not providing NHS spectacles and by more than £100 million which is to come from its limited list of NHS drugs and further cuts in drug companies' profits.

In the succeeding years to 1987-88, however, expenditure on family practitioner services is planned to rise at 8 per cent and 6 per cent, higher than inflation but having to match extra demand from the increasing numbers of the elderly.

Hospital spending in England will rise next year by more than £500 million, an increase of 5.5 per cent, which provides about 1 per cent growth in real terms. That will only occur, however, if pay rises are held to 3 per cent.

A 1 per cent increase in real terms should match the increase in the numbers of elderly, but the Government seems to have stopped pretending it is funding advances in medical technology which are reckoned to add half a per cent a year to NHS spending. Such advances will have to come from efficiency savings and cost improvement programmes which this year are expected to save £100 million.

Health authorities are to be expected to at least repeat if not improve on that performance in the next few years. The White Paper also confirms the cut in the amounts that local authorities can borrow to spend on capital schemes for old people's homes, the mentally handicapped and others. It says the figures have been revised to "a more realistic level in the light of continuing underspend".



Public expenditure in cash terms by programme

	1983-84 outturn	1984-85 estimated outturn	1985-86 plans	1986-87 plans	1987-88 plans
Defence	15.5	17.2	18.1	18.8	19.9
Overseas aid and other overseas services	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.8
Agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.9
Industry, energy, trade and employment	5.9	7.2	4.7	3.7	3.5
Arts and libraries	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7
Transport	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.8
Housing	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.6
Other environmental services	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.5
Law, order and protective services	4.6	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.8
Education and science	13.4	13.7	13.6	14.0	14.2
Health and personal social services	14.8	15.8	16.5	17.4	18.1
Social security	36.2	37.9	40.1	41.8	44.0
Other public services	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0
Common services	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
Scotland	6.7	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3
Wales	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.9
Northern Ireland	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.8
Local authority current expenditure not allocated to programmes (England)			0.6		
Adjustments					
Special sales of assets	-1.1	-2.0	-2.5	-2.2	-2.2
Reserve		-0.5	3.0	4.0	5.0
General allowance for shortfall					
Planning total	120.3	128.1	132.1	128.7	141.5
Percentage change on previous year	6.1	6.5	3.1	3.5	3.5
Memorandum items (not included above)					
Debt interest	7.2	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0
Debt	15.8	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0
- gross					

Public sector capital spending

	1983-84 outturn	1984-85 estimated outturn	1985-86 plans	1986-87 plans	1987-88 plans
Goods and services					
General government	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4
Expenditure on dwellings	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.7
New construction other than dwellings	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
Purchases (net) of vehicles, plant and machinery	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Construction	4.2	4.5	5.7	5.9	6.0
Equipment					
Total general government	12.7	13.6	13.5	14.0	14.3
Public corporations including nationalised industries	12.7	12.9	12.4	12.3	12.1
Expenditure on dwellings	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.3
Purchases (net) of vehicles, plant and machinery	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.9
Total goods and services	18.4	18.8	18.6	18.2	18.4
Capital grants to the private sector					
General government	3.4	3.3	2.6	2.6	2.4
Public corporations					
Total capital grants to the private sector	3.5	3.3	2.6	2.6	2.4
Total goods and services plus capital grants to the private sector	21.8	22.1	21.6	21.8	21.8
Real terms (base year 1983-84)	21.8	21.1	20.7	20.7	20.5

the next three years, with road expenditure rising gradually, and a continued tight rein on British Rail and local authority expenditure.

Capital investment by the English and Welsh water authorities is set to rise from £799 million this year to £964 million in 1987-88, but a greater proportion will be met from their own resources. The external finance limit for the industry next year has been set at £205 million, reflecting higher financial targets.

Transport spending, rising from £4,758 million this year to £4,830 million in 1986-87 remains steadily on course over

the next three years, with road expenditure rising gradually, and a continued tight rein on British Rail and local authority expenditure.

Total grants to environmental bodies rise from £68.6 million this year to £75.2 million in 1985-86. The Countryside Commission's budget increases from £13.2 million to £13.3 million and the Nature Conservancy Council's allocation also goes up, as does spending on environmental research.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

End of GLC shows few savings

By David Walker
Local Government Correspondent

In the first published projection of council spending beyond April 1986, it is difficult to detect any significant savings accruing to the public from the abolition of the Greater London Council and six metropolitan counties.

In fact, council spending on economic initiatives and transport, two areas where abolition is supposed to effect big savings, is scheduled to rise in the year after abolition.

The Government admits that an extra £107 million has been included for public transport "to allow the passenger transport authorities in the metropolitan areas time to bring spending into line with the level of spending the Government believes to be desirable."

Overall, council spending in England is to rise in 1986-87 by £436 million over that of 1985-86, a figure which implies that if their are savings from abolition they are not immediately available. That figure represents a 2 per cent increase. In 1987-88, council spending is planned to increase by one per cent.

What the White Paper makes clear is how large are the savings the Government wants councils to make now, that is in their spending during financial year 1985-86.

Current spending

	1984/85 actual spending	1985/86 plan	% change
Arts and libraries	97	90	-11
Police and fire	1,943	1,944	-24
Housing	123	111	-30
Refuse collection and other environmental services	2,516	2,421	-7
Education	10,490	10,269	-4
Social services	2,288	2,232	-1
Law and order	3,267	3,296	-2.5

Assuming inflation at 4.5 per cent

HOUSING

Home grants cut by a fifth

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Funds available for home improvements grants, renovation of run-down council housing and new local authority house-building are being cut by one fifth in real terms over the next year.

The White Paper's section on housing confirms the scale of expected cuts. Gross capital spending by English councils falls by £500 million in cash or about 21 per cent in real terms, according to inflation during 1985-86 of 3.5 per cent. Subsidy for council house rents continues its decline and there is a cut in provision for housing associations through the Housing Corporation.

From the Treasury's point of view, housing is now clearly the one area of social policy where expenditure reductions since 1979 have been not only real but continuous, a success story.

Net council capital spending in 1985-86 is set - in cash - to be 300 per cent less than in the first year of Mrs Thatcher's administration. In real terms this means a Treasury bottom line reduction of about 360 per cent.

Gross domestic fixed capital formation - the economist's term for actual investment in housing - was worth £2.1 billion in 1979-80, and will be £1.8 billion in the coming year. If the 1979 value had been maintained, investment would in 1985-86 be about £3.4 billion. The Treasury's calculations have benefited by more than £8 billion from huge capital receipts from the sale of council housing and land and the disposal of new town assets.

Future of council house spending

	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87
Total gross council capital spending	3,108	2,814	2,321	2,000
Less: interest on loans	-1,789	-1,485	-1,395	-1,400
Total net council capital spending	1,320	1,329	926	600

*Times extrapolation

PRIVATIZATION

Targets raised for asset sales

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has again raised his targets for asset sales proceeds in the next three years. The figures underline how central a role the privatization programme has come to play in allowing the Treasury to report that it is keeping to its public spending plans.

Asset sales have raised a record £2,000 million in the current financial year, thanks largely to the first proceeds from the British Telecom flotation in November.

Yesterday's White Paper shows that Mr Nigel Lawson is expecting to beat that figure for each of the next three years, with £2,500 million in 1985/86, £2,250 million in each of the subsequent two years.

The new figures mean that over the next three years the Treasury is looking for £7,000 million from asset sales, a full £1,000 million more than it had budgeted for at this time last year. By the end of the period the Government will have netted the best part of £12,000 million from privatization and other assets sales since it took office in 1979.

As usual, the Treasury has refused to give a breakdown of how it intends to reach its asset sales targets. Nor has it given a timetable of likely disposals.

It has identified a series of potential candidates, however, and for the next two years at least it is clear that the figures are attainable without any new or unexpected additions.

In both 1985/86 and 1986/87, it will have the benefit of £1,200 million of receipts from shareholders' second and third instalment payments on British Telecom shares.

Other candidates earmarked for sale in 1985/86 are British Airways, British Shipbuilders' workshop yards, the Government's remaining holding in British Aerospace and possibly BL's Unipart spares subsidiary. The following year is likely to see the sale of The Royal Ordnance Factories and the National Bus Company. Also provisionally on the list are Short's, the Belfast shipbuilding and aero-engine company, and Rolls Royce.

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In both 19

Fortified farms ready to repel separatists

Jaruzelski takes a wary look at Gdansk

● **BEIRUT** - Lebanese Muslims' strike action yesterday closed stores, banks and schools in West Beirut, the Muslim sector of the capital, as well as throughout most of south Lebanon (Our Correspondent writes).

Fearing violent seizures of properties by militant Melanesian separatists seeking independence from France, European settlers in the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia have turned their farms into fortresses with sandbags.

Russia's computer fever

Cash sought to bring phone to all

Because of the attack, Somoza Rivera refused to attend the latest round of peace talks which had been scheduled for last weekend in Bogotá, Colombia, in diplomatic notes to the Sandinistas he said he would return to the negotiating table once the Sandinista offensive stopped. Government troops were withdrawn from the area and the International Red Cross was permitted in to assist the people.

Journalist dies
Lisbon (Reuter) - Josephine (Jose) Shercliff, former correspondent in Lisbon for *The Times*, died in hospital here on Monday night at the age of 87.

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There was more to the necessary element of the President's thinking on central administration, of course, an occasion some colorful oratory. It was not sufficient to say everything he chose to say. It was not necessary to endorse a commission's recommendation. This was an excellent principle. He was dubious about economic growth. The deficit was rising sharply. He said Reagan has not prepared that would be required to bring it down. He will not get the support in Congress needed if he is to carry out Democratic plans. He will not see how we can as well - which means putting the planned economy spending. It is probably both.

administration international organizations and the United Nations, and substitutes for not failing to discuss the problem. It is difficult and necessary for him to claim that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the "face of the world," usually unrealistic, but a long-term goal. But he has a specific objective, a piece of empty rhetoric. The United States embarked on new negotiations with the Soviet Union. At best, this will be a process, which will be a tension between them ultimately produce a modest agreement.

To encourage beyond that would be because it might increase demands for public opinion as well as European excessive concessions to secure a settlement may win pleads. It is equally no invite pressure tomorrow.

It was equally no for him to say the research programme, his Strategic Initiative "would clear weapons, open research that is common to offer prospect of complete against all forms attack.

Record is most reassuring

This habit of excess seems to be at least part of the explanation for the strange contrast between his remarkable performance and his off-the-field behavior.

His personal home is frequently the level of supply policies or his Administration. That is partly because he is associated with the hopes that he has for the Administration and with the failure to practice

He receives the aspirations because he is closely attuned to the responses of the American.

His record is reassuring than words have been involved.

fighting? There but he extracted there with consi- cal skill), even diplomatic fines: Grenada, which b'm short and s- ation.

Now, despite the sceptics, he Genera road a retains an app- ness of

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For the rest of the course will be what he does, more realistic suggestions.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

There was more than the necessary element of wishful thinking in President Reagan's second inaugural address. This was, of course, an occasion for some colourful oratory; but that was not a sufficient explanation for everything he chose to say. It was not necessary for him to endorse a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. This was an example of the dubious principle that if you cannot do enough today, double your promises for tomorrow. The deficit has been rising sharply, largely because Mr Reagan has not been prepared to take the hard decisions that would be required to bring it down.

He will not get the Democratic support in Congress that is needed if he is willing to sacrifice only Democratic sacred cows. He will have to sacrifice some Republican ones as well - which means either putting up some taxes, or cutting the planned level of defence spending, or more probably both.

To seek to put a future Administration into a constitutional strait-jacket can be no substitute for failing to take the difficult decision now.

It was not necessary, either, for him to claim that "we seek the total elimination, one day, of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth". That is totally unrealistic, even as a long-term goal. But there is a more specific objection to this piece of empty rhetoric.

The United States is about to embark on new arms negotiations with the Soviet Union. At best, this will be a long, slow process, which may reduce tension between them and may ultimately produce a useful but modest agreement.

To encourage expectations beyond that would be folly, because it might in due course increase demands from Western public opinion - American as well as European - for excessive concessions in order to secure a settlement. What may win plaudits today may irritate pressure tomorrow.

It was equally unnecessary for him to say that, if the research programme is successful, his Strategic Defence Initiative "would render nuclear weapons obsolete". No research that is contemplated seems to offer a realistic prospect of complete defence against all forms of nuclear attack.

Record is more reassuring

This habit of rhetorical excess seems to me to be at least part of the explanation for the strange contrast between his remarkable popularity at home and his unpopularity abroad.

His personal standing at home is frequently higher than the level of support for his policies or his Administration. That is partly because he is associated with the ambitious hopes that he articulates: his Administration is burdened with the failure to put them into practice.

He receives the credit for his aspirations because he is so closely attuned to the instinctive responses of the average American.

Abroad it is seen rather differently. His oratorical extravagances are taken more literally. That is why he is so widely regarded as dangerously aggressive.

His record is in fact more reassuring than some of his words have been. Where has he involved American troops in fighting? There was Lebanon, but he extracted them from there with considerable political skill, even if with less diplomatic finesse. There was Grenada, which was a rough but short and successful operation.

Now, despite the doubts of the sceptics, he has taken the Geneva road again. Yet he retains an apparent unawareness of how some of his words will sound abroad. It is what he claims for his Strategic Defence Initiative, for example, not the reality, that would conflict with European interests.

If both superpowers were to become completely invulnerable to nuclear attack that would increase the risk of conventional warfare in Europe. A partial defence against nuclear attack, while it is the only realistic hope, would not have that effect.

The more often President Reagan's advisers can remind him that when he speaks inside the United States he is usually heard outside as well, the better it will be.

For the rest of us the wisest course will be to concentrate on what he says, which is so often more realistic than what he suggests he will do. That is why his second term is likely to be better than his second inaugural.

Shuttle set to blast off for first secret spy satellite flight

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The space shuttle Discovery yesterday entered the final hours of countdown for a highly secret military mission which experts said would deploy a spy satellite to intercept electronic signals from the Soviet Union.

Workers braced themselves for a second chilling day at the launching pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida, preparing the shuttle for take-off today.

How they stand

The number of military satellites the two superpowers have in orbit now are as follows:

	US	USSR
Photo-reconnaissance	4	2
Radar surveillance	0	2
Electronic intelligence	16	10
Military communications	22	28
Navigation	13	12
Weatherological	5	5
Early-warning	3	6
Total	64	62

Unofficial sources said that, in addition to the above, the superpowers each have about 30 civilian communications satellites in orbit.

The Air Force has kept shrouded in secrecy the exact launch time and duration of the mission, to hamper Soviet efforts to monitor deployment of the spy satellite. Officials would say only that blast-off was due between 1.15pm and 4.15pm local time.

Non-Government experts have said Discovery would deploy the first in a new series of satellites which would boost ability to monitor Soviet compliance with arms control agreements.

The signal intelligence (Sigint) satellite would intercept Soviet telemetry, radio broadcasts and radar signals.

A later mission would deploy an Ikon satellite which

could take minutely detailed photographs, even at night, one expert said.

Sigint is reported to have possibly two to three times the gathering ability of present satellites and Ikon would allow the US to keep almost a constant watch on the movement of Soviet missile launchers.

The Pentagon has declined all comment on the main objective of the Discovery's flight the first top-secret manned US space mission. It expressed dismay at Press reports last month that the US was to launch a satellite which would eavesdrop on electronic signals from the Soviet Union.

Discovery's mission, according to Press reports, is to put an intelligence-gathering satellite into orbit 22,500 miles above the western part of the Soviet Union.

Discovery's landing time would not be announced until 16 hours before touchdown at Cape Canaveral, a mission control spokesman said.

Of more than 200 shuttle launches due in the next 10 years, about a third are to be conducted by the military. Today's is the first.

Prayers and protest on abortion law

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Yesterday was the 12th anniversary of the Supreme Court's highly controversial Roe v Wade decision legalising abortion on demand throughout the US. Pro and anti-abortion activists used the occasion to support their respective positions through protests and prayer.

Across the nation opponents of abortion held marches and vigils calling for the scrapping of the Supreme Court ruling.

Since the ruling more than 18 million fetuses have been aborted and abortions are continuing at the rate of 4,500 a day. Opinion polls show that a growing number of Americans believe that the law should be amended and that greater protection should be afforded to the unborn child.

Leaders of the National Right to Life Movement, which yesterday organized a March for Life rally from the White House to Capitol Hill, hope they have a real chance of getting abortion laws amended during President Reagan's second term.

In his 1984 State of the Union message Mr Reagan appealed to Americans to find alternatives to abortion.

Yesterday President Reagan spoke through a loudspeaker hookup from the Oval Office to the pro-life marchers outside the White House. He called for an end to the national tragedy of abortion on demand and expressed his support for legislation banning the use of federal funds to finance abortions.

UN states urged to make Charter binding

By Michael Knipe

United Nations member-states should mark this year's 40th anniversary of the world organization by acknowledging the legal fact that the UN Charter was as binding as their own constitutions, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, said in Edinburgh last night.

In a speech at Edinburgh University he said the organization might have fallen short of expectations but it had contributed many positive developments, including economic and technical assistance to more than one hundred countries, peace-keeping duties and the codification and development of international law.

Five conventions on the laws governing space, containing principles to limit potential military use, were a very solid achievement. Another was the Convention on the Law of the Sea, under which Britain would be among the states which stand to gain the most. In the war against drugs, the latest endeavour was a Latin-American initiative to equate drug trafficking with slave trading.

Popieluszko murder trial

Battle erupts over attack on church

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A fierce courtroom battle broke out yesterday during the Popieluszko murder trial over an attempt by the state prosecutor to incorporate in the case material a lengthy document attacking the Roman Catholic Church's political activities in Poland.

The wrangle is crucial, courtroom observers say, not only because it represents a fresh attempt to politicize the trial but also because the state prosecutor may be easing the way towards a milder sentence for the acknowledged ring-leader of the kidnap, the former secret police captain Grzegorz Piotrowski.

He and his two lieutenants, Leszek Pelka and Waldemar Chmielewski, face between eight years' imprisonment and capital punishment under article 148, paragraph 1 of the penal code, for the premeditated murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko.

But the prosecutor, who seems to be giving the accused a backhanded defence, could change the charge to murder while in a state of emotional instability. Paragraph 2 of the same article provides for between one and ten years in jail. To do so he would have to show that Piotrowski's political frustration with the largely unchecked activities of priests had driven him to a state of frenzy.

The attack on the church, already delivered in part by Piotrowski during his testi-



Key man: General Platek (third from left) and other witnesses

mony, accuses a bishop of collaborating with the Nazis, speaks of financial links between clerics and Solidarity, alleges tax dodges and says the clergy are disloyal.

He also claims to have had material on Popieluszko which both compromised him - it accuses him of having had a mistress.

Lawyers for the Popieluszko family effectively brought the normal running of the trial to a

halt yesterday in their attempts to stop the state prosecutor getting away with this latest move.

One of the lawyers, Mr Jan Olszewski, said: "My anxiety about this borders on outrage. This is one of the most important trials in postwar Poland... and yet the prosecutor is trying to introduce elements of a political farce into the hearings."

While the crossfire between

prosecutor, judges and family lawyers held up the action in the Torun courtroom, the main witness of the day, secret police General Zenon Platek, heavy with fatigue, snayed uneasily in the witness stand.

The Popieluszko family lawyers have been pressing him to admit he slowed up the investigation into the murder.

His testimony was beginning to look threadbare under cross-examination.

Ramphal calls off Sri Lanka initiative

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Shridath Ramphal, has shelved his efforts to help to resolve tension in Sri Lanka and to improve its relations with India. Common-

wealth sources said in London yesterday.

Mr Ramphal contacted President J. R. Jayawardene of Sri Lanka this month to investigate the possibility of helping to ease tension between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority.

Relations between India and Sri Lanka have been damaged by claims, which Delhi denies, that Tamil separatist guerrillas have been trained in India.

The Commonwealth sources say that Mr Ramphal has called off his initiative because premature disclosures have led both governments to take public stands that indicate that no progress can be made. The offer to explore ways to help remains on the table, they say.

● COLOMBO: "We will not accept the theory that certain parts of the island are the traditional homelands of the Tamils or any other race", President Jayawardene said on Monday at Anamadawa in the north western province (Donovan Mouldrich writes).

The settlement of Sinhalese peasants by successive governments since independence in 1948 in areas of the north and east, which the Tamils regard as their traditional homeland, has been a most contentious issue.

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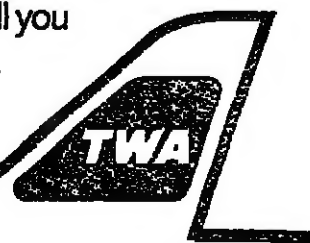
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Leading the way to the USA



The Indian spy scandal

Overhaul of intelligence service casts wide net

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

What is described as "a major overhaul of the intelligence set-up" has been ordered by India's Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, after the disclosure of the biggest spy scandal in the country's history.

His parliamentary secretary and closest aide, Mr Arun Singh, a former businessman, has been deputed to oversee the operation, and the Home and Defence ministries have been asked to review document handling in sensitive offices.

At the same time, police and Intelligence Bureau investigations into the spy scandal are spreading ever wider. According to newspapers, the operation already includes investigations of several politicians.

The *Statesman* says that politicians under surveillance include a former finance minister, and *The Hindustan Times* report includes a former general secretary of the Congress (I) Party and 12 elected representatives of various political parties.

The *Hindustan Times* also says that a dozen brigadiers and a dozen permanent secretaries are under investigation.

The *Times of India* declares that the names of five diplomats from the French, US and West German embassies have been passed to the External Affairs Ministry so that they may be declared persona non grata.

Senior Civil Servants held

Among those remanded in custody to appear in court on Monday are understood to be the private secretary to Mr Gandhi's former Principal Secretary, and three personal assistants and a clerk also from the Prime Minister's secretariat. Others include the senior personal assistant to the President of India's press secretary, two personal assistants in the finance ministry and another in defence production, a defence ministry clerk, and the Delhi manager and another employee of a Bombay company.

because of their alleged involvement in the spy ring.

The *Indian Express* insists that at least one Frenchman other than the withdrawn military attaché, Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Bolley, is also involved. It says that this mysterious Frenchman, who is not a member of the embassy, was the real mastermind of the spy network, and that he was hustled out of the country 24 hours before the colonel left.

The *Express*, incidentally, was the first to report that a Frenchman had been expelled; 24 hours before Colonel Bolley left.

One reason has been sug-

gested why the finger has been pointed so vigorously at the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Some months ago two US newspapers reported leaks from the Senate Intelligence Committee which indicated that India may have been considering a pre-emptive attack on Pakistan's nuclear plants, similar to Israel's strike against Iraq's French-built plant.

Although such an idea may have been mooted in some kind of position paper within the Indian bureaucracy, it was firmly rejected by the then Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

None the less, the fact that such a paper could surface in the US indicated to India's counter-intelligence organizations that some sort of American-linked spy network was at work inside the bureaucracy.

The present case may also have the unforeseen effect of strengthening the hand of the military men against the bureaucrats.

India's armed forces are essentially run and controlled not by the generals, but by the civil servants.

Now that the bureaucracy has been shown to be so penetrated by foreign interests, the military have a case for insisting that control of the forces is placed in the hands of one of their own men - a lieutenant-general or his equivalent in other services.



Export exponents: King Juan Carlos of Spain and his Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez (left), at an export summit in Madrid yesterday attended by thousands of Spanish industrialists and economists.

Gandhi faces another electoral test

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

Almost three-quarters of India's voters will be going to the polls again at the beginning of March to elect a local legislature in 10 states and one union territory.

Voting will be on March 2 and March 5 in the populous states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The others

will vote on March 5 only. They are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and the union territory of Pondicherry.

Seven states had opposition governments after Congress returned to power in 1980, and so were dissolved and fresh elections held. The resulting legislatures' terms are now up.

In Karnataka the Janata Party chief minister resigned and called for elections after Mr Rajiv Gandhi's sweeping victory last month.

No elections are to be held for an assembly in Punjab, where president's rule will continue and a date has not been set for elections to the central parliament there or in Assam.

China takes first steps on road to rule by law

From Mary Lee
Peking

China has taken first steps in moving the country towards rule by law rather than by arbitrarily enforced administrative regulations.

The efforts to build a base of civil law bore fruit this week when the standing committee of the National People's Congress adopted legislation on accountancy, the next important step will be introduction of a law governing inheritance.

As the Communist Party newspaper, *The People's Daily*, pointed out last month: "Some comrades look down upon the legal system... and think that law is too binding and can be dispensed with."

"They hold that if there is policy, there is no need for law. They are used to replacing the Government with the party and replacing law with verbal orders, practising arbitrary rule like a patriarchy with themselves alone having the say."

"We should see to it that the law will not change along with a change of leaders, nor with the change of the opinions and attention of the leaders."

The accountancy law, China's first, comes into effect on May 1. It will allow accountants to perform their duties unfettered by political constraints or threats of retaliation.

Mr Yang Jinyu, deputy secretary-general of the Congress's law commission, said such legislation was made necessary by China's extensive programme of economic reforms.

"We need accountants to exercise supervision of the state financial system, help reinforce economic management and promote the rational use of funds."

Young Deng joins in debate on God

Peking (AP) - Mother Teresa of Calcutta debated yesterday with the disabled son of China's leader over whether God was the inspiration for their work on behalf of the needy. Mr Deng Pufang, deputy director of a welfare fund for the handicapped, who was crippled during the Cultural Revolution when Red Guards threw him from a window, said he was an atheist, and "although we start from a different standpoint, we are doing the same work." The Nobel Peace Prize winner replied: "It is the same standpoint, out of love for God in action."

The next big step, he said, would be the inheritance law, which entitled individuals to own private property. Asked how that square with "public ownership of means of production", which is the slogan the leadership uses to ward off any suggestion that China is becoming "capitalist", Yang replied: "As a socialist country, we have public ownership of the means of production. But in the wake of economic reforms and in the face of reality, private ownership of the means of production has been developing. Many citizens now own cars and trucks and livestock."

Yang also said that when the sixth National People's Congress is convened in late March, it will examine draft legislation dealing with other issues, such as enterprises wholly-owned by foreign investors, arising out of the economic reform and the new open-door policy.

Mass graves in Andes

Amnesty condemns military 'terror'

By Colin Harding

Hundreds of people have been killed and more than 1,000 have "disappeared" since the Peruvian armed forces took charge of anti-guerrilla operations in the south central Andes two years ago, Amnesty International claims in a report published today.

There is persuasive evidence that many of the dead and the missing have been innocent victims of a terror strategy adopted by the military to dissuade the Indian peasants of the remote Ayacucho region from supporting or harbouring the Maoist guerrillas of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) movement.

Sendero Luminoso is a particularly ruthless organization, which has been responsible for hundreds of deaths since it appeared in mid-1980. It has killed dozens of alleged informers and carried out wholesale massacres in villages suspected of collaborating with the armed forces. But the guerrillas have proved impossible to wipe out, despite the commitment of up to 7,000 troops. Military tactics have consequently become increasingly ruthless.

The security forces claim to have killed 1,435 guerrillas in 1983, but Amnesty suspects that many were not combatants at all. It points to evidence of arbitrary arrests, the routine use of torture during interrogation and the discovery of mass graves of mutilated corpses in the neighbourhood of military installations.

The report presents 1,005 carefully documented cases of disappearances in the Ayacucho region and accuses the elected



President Belaunde: Rejects human rights criticisms

Government of President Fernando Belaunde Terry of doing nothing to curb the excesses of the security forces.

However, the President has consistently rejected all criticisms of his Government's human rights record.

Amnesty commends the Attorney General's office for its efforts to bring some of the facts into the open, but the judicial authorities face an uphill struggle. The armed forces say that the "disappeared" people have simply gone off to join the guerrillas and that the nameless dead in the mass graves are Sendero battle casualties, buried by the guerrillas themselves. The Government, anxious not to offend the powerful military in the months leading up to the April presidential elections is content to leave it at that.

In the few weeks since the Amnesty report was printed, yet more mass graves have been found around Ayacucho.

Peru Briefing: Disappearances and Political Killings by Government Forces in the Andean Emergency Zone.

Artist's widow denounces tide of fakes

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

An upsurge of fakes among the works of the Catalan painter Joan Miró has been denounced by his widow.

"I cannot understand how collectors and buyers do not insist on proper checks", Señora Pilar Juncosa de Miró declared yesterday to the Madrid daily newspaper *El País*.

She explained how the fakers often reproduced elements from her husband's established paintings, presenting them as new creations. "They are real disasters as works of art but I fear the phenomenon will go on", she said.

Prices for the painter's work have been rising since his death a year ago.

Señora Rosa Naleit who runs the Miró Foundation in Barcelona called on auction houses and commercial galleries around the world to take more adequate steps "to respect the prestige of Miró as an artist".

Manila curfew to curb child prostitution

From Keith Dalton
Manila

A 9pm curfew on children below the age of 15 has been enforced in Manila as city officials announced a new campaign to rid the streets of the Philippine capital of child prostitutes.

"Manila has become the favourite destination of sex pervers from all over the world who come here to abuse our children", Manila's mayor, Mr Ramon Bagatsing, told police and social welfare officials.

Child prostitutes, some only eight years old, roamed the city's tourist district at night selling their bodies to foreigners, Mr Bagatsing said.

In many cases, he said, the children are accompanied by their parents who act as their "pimps".

He ordered the police to round up suspected child prostitutes found loitering in Manila's tourist area after 9pm.

Plea for Hungarians

From Richard Bassett
Vienna

Mr Peter Varkonyi, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, visited Bucharest on Monday for talks with Mr Stefan Andrei, the Romanian Foreign Minister, the official Romanian news agency reported yesterday.

The talks, which the Romanian news agency described as "friendly and cordial", are believed to have centred on the emotional issue of Romania's ethnic minority of two million Hungarians.

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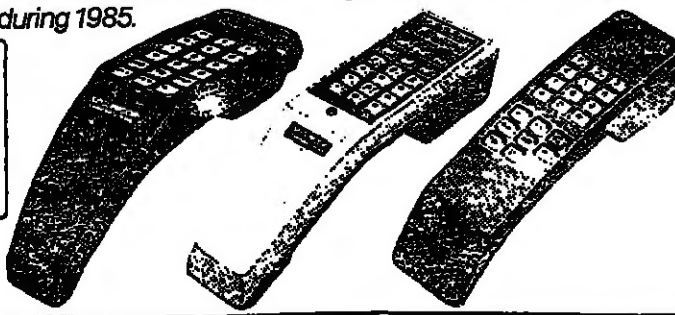
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THE ARTS

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9



A true femme fatale: Ann Mitchell

Schiller's genius vindicated anew

Mary Stuart
Citizens', Glasgow

While Mary Stuart's historical portraits may have failed to capture her vaunted beauty and charm, Ann Mitchell's figure of the tragic queen at the Citizens' Theatre makes this femme fatale palpable.

It is not a matter of beauty, though Miss Mitchell looks regally lovely in her black Elizabethan-style costume and moves as if grace were in her genes. Nor is the charm tangible simply through the shading of phrases, though in Miss Mitchell's Cordelia-like voice there are indeed seductive. The actress has stepped out of history and Schiller's dramatic masterpiece freshly minted. During to play the Stuart with a French accent – justified not only by Mary's upbringing but by her last request to send her back to France ("It is always there") – she gives Mary the virtually irresistible charm of Katherine in *Henry V*.

She is complemented in Philip Prowse's production by Fidelis Morgan's Elizabeth, whose curly red wig and luxurious gold gown would seem to mock Mary's poverty, but serve to make Elizabeth look pitiful. In a metallic but not irritating voice, Miss Morgan sounds as if she were on a public address system, an excellent choice for a queen whose private life is still a mystery.

Elizabeth tries so hard, while Mary appears to try not at all, and it is still obvious why most men adore the Stuart rather than the Tudor woman. As Elizabeth laments, men are "unable to value what they should admire", and

though her character does not emerge as admirable in Schiller, she is pitiable in Miss Morgan's portrayal.

Prowse's direction and design make many points, one of which is the no-win position of women surrounded by power-hungry men. By dressing the queens in period and the male cast in black business suits, he stresses the manipulations of men when women are painted dolls. Burleigh, played with superlative efficiency by Laurence Rudge, is like an inhuman accountant; Leicester is acted by Jonathan Phillips like a lounge lizard on an evolutionary upsurge; even Philip Bretherton's passionate Mortimer would sacrifice saving Mary's life to making love to her. The decent men lose, and so do the women; we might be back a week ago to the RSC's opening of *Waverley*, where politicians of similar stamp snuff out lives like candles.

The beauty of Schiller's play, and of Prowse's production, is their complex balance in both aesthetic and human terms. Schiller lays out, actually embodies in some characters, the dynastic, political and religious arguments of the Stuart-Tudor claims to the throne. The action turns, however, not on intellectual but on psychological issues: Mary forfeits her chance of living goodly to take verbal revenge on the queen who torments her; Elizabeth signs the death warrant in return for revenge. This was not enough for Schiller, however, who wrote so compellingly about the difference between worlds and psychological justice. Mary goes to her death serene and beloved, atoning for her sins; Elizabeth is secure on the throne yet deserted and alone.

Prowse has devised an ingenious extra character to remind us that Mary needs to atone – at the first mention of her guilt over her husband Lord Darnley's death, his ghostly figure, blood frozen about his eyes, joins her, and is never far away until she makes her final confession and communion. Mary has her spectre, while being Elizabeth's. The concept is stunning.

Prowse's set includes several black-draped blocks among its inky forms – a reminder of the fate at issue. His sculptured lighting, which only occasionally has dimming misfires, is mostly in spotlights focused upon the speaking characters, spilling over to show the shadowy figures in the action. The black background drapes fall, and smoke creates a misty, mournful and more evocative shadows, for the queens' meeting in the garden. Bagpipes sound mournfully in the distance when Fate hovers.

Robert David MacDonald's translation is lucid and spare, enabling the actors to speak with variety, feeling and rhetorical flourish without ever sounding flowery. Sometimes the production wanders off in the wrong direction, as when Mary appears for her execution in an elegant gown of the same material as Elizabeth's and Elizabeth comes out afterwards in Mary's black, and it is fearfully difficult to hear Mary's last scene, but these are minor peccadilloes in a new translation and staging which can only make us wonder why the English-speaking stage so neglects the genius of such Germans as Schiller and Kleist.

Holly Hill

Andromache
Donmar Warehouse

Racine in modern dress we have seen before. Racine stripped of heroic gesture, heightened delivery and played in idiomatic prose is a startling novelty, and Declan Donnellan's production (the last in Cheek by Jowl's Warehouse season) justifies it up to the hilt.

Its starting point is to bypass the cliché of Racine's untranslatable and shed the stylistic lumber altogether. This will strike the Racine lobby, for whom style and content are inseparable, as ignorant folly. But this production proves them wrong. However much of *Andromache* has been lost in David Bryer's translation, its psychological realism remains intact.

A footnote to the Trojan War, this is a tragedy in which the apparent victims survive and in which expected developments turn out to be false clues.

Sympathy is invited for a heroine who is clearly martyr material: enslaved to Achilles's son, Pyrrhus, and remaining faithful to the dead Hector even if it costs the life of her child. However, it is Andromache and her boy who survive to rule Epirus; and it is Pyrrhus and the spurned Hermione who meet a bloody end. Orestes, double avenger of the Greeks and of Hermione, merely goes mad.

On Mr Donnellan's stage, the madness is rendered in a style of quiet bewilderment, wholly in keeping with the rest of Andrew Collins's performance, as the good-natured bearer of implacable orders which, in the end, he finds unendurable.

His performance, like those of the other principals, is that of a reasonable human being in the grip of an irrational force, and periodically breaking up the quiet interplay of diplomatic conversation with screams of pent-up distress.

Surrounding those tormented creatures are a quartet of confidantes who can barely

contain their contempt for their better. They come forward with tissues to wipe their tears away, yawn and look at their watches, and are always ready to twist the knife should Hermione or Orestes happen to forget the plight they are in.

Least interesting among the principals is Amanda Harris's Andromache, whose nobly suicidal progress through the action at least paves the way for the last act surprise. The main shock comes from Sadie Shimmin's Hermione, who translates this always violent figure into a brutally shrewish avenger for whom the "Hell hath no fury" proverb might have been coined. Turning a bright artificial smile on Orestes whenever she has a little task for him, such as killing Dussan Bell's Pyrrhus, or exploding into torrents of contradictory abuse, she is the thing itself that underlies those stately alexandrines, and she is not to be missed.

Irving Wardle

London debuts

Virtuoso
trombone

very small, very young chamber orchestra which is one of the first fruits of the Britten-Pears training orchestra at Snape. Some of them are still students, some beginning to play with groups like the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta. Conducted with discreet dynamism by Ivor Bolton, their Haydn Symphony No 44 ("Trauer") showed their skill at French-polished phrasing, never of the nature to make bland the particular quality of its instrumental writing. Highly cultivated yet robust, the strings brought elegance of articulation to the Adagio without a shade of preciousness. The woodwind and brass came into their own in Britten's Sinfonietta. In ensemble their corporate movement was closely focused, particularly pungent in Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*.

Simply because they were to be passengers' next day on a CTC Lines world cruise, that shipping company set up a little invitation concert for two Soviet artists, Evgeny Raikov, a tenor from the Bolshoi making his London debut, and the pianist Nina Aroushtova, making her debut in the West, are both artists in the grandest of grand Russian manners; and it was a tiny room at the Warwick Arts Trust. Raikov made little allowance for the fact, blasting us with arias from *Eugene Onegin* and *Queen of Spades*, refusing to scale down his very genuine ardour for the salon miniatures of Glinka and Rachmaninov. He is, in his own way, the Pavarotti of Russian tenors, though with even less subtlety of technical and dynamic gear-changes, and far more at home in the Russian folk songs he provided as encores. Aroushtova was a warmly supportive accompanist, and in her own right, presented vibrantly rhythmic, over-energetic and not entirely idiomatic performances of Bach-Marcello, Haydn and Scriabin.

Hilary Finch

Slightly Bloomsbury-ish but refined and voluptuous: Raymond Coxon's *Reclining Nude*

Galleries

Stylistic strength of years

Raymond Coxon and
Edna Ginesi
Michael Parkin

With the astonishing example of Chagall before us, still painting away busily as he approaches 80, the case of Raymond Coxon and Edna Ginesi, artists and coincidentally husband and wife, who are sharing a show at the Michael Parkin Gallery in Belgrave until February 1, must seem slightly less anecdotally remarkable: after all, he is coming up merely to 89 this year, and she is a strapping 83.

Even if we are less totally transported with wonderment that they are still going strong than we might otherwise be, we shall still find a visit to the gallery very far from a waste of time. Though both artists have achieved a certain measure of quiet fame during their lives, they are undoubtedly far less well known than some of their contemporaries, such as Henry Moore, with whom Coxon was at Leeds College of Art around

1920, or Edward Bawden, an old friend who features in one of the Coxon paintings on show. *Ten at Zenith*, where he is seen enjoying a picnic on the grass with Edna Ginesi some time in the early Thirties.

Fame or no, they both emerge as interesting and serious painters, each possessing an individual style which strengthens and solidifies through the years with, funnily enough, very little cross-reference from one to the other.

Coxon is, when he wishes, a skilful portrait-painter with a strong sense of character, well in evidence in his often-repeated cloth-cap portrait of a slightly formidable-looking *Jack Epstein* in 1948. Such pictures do not do justice, however, to his refined yet voluptuous colour sense, which is given full range in such slightly Bloomsbury-ish works as *Reclining Nude* in a 'Victorian chaise-longue'. He is also a cunning draughtsman, making every apparently flimsy line tell in pieces like *Classical Busts* and *Palms* or the monotype *Three Bathers*, both of which

also evince a beguiling, understated sense of humour.

Ginesi, though she also paints and draws figures from time to time, is nearly always equally interested in the plants which tend to surround them, and many of the most appealing works in her half of the show are intimate landscapes, flower-pieces and still-lives. She delights to trace the random-seeming yet logical patterns of root and branch, producing her own telling patterns from arrangements like *Still Life with Candlesticks*, and, like her husband, she has a particular affinity for the subtle and demanding form of the monotype, the two examples exhibited here, *The Window Box* and *Young Palms, Summerland Key, Florida*, achieving a remarkably painterly richness and complexity.

Those already aware of the two painters' work will be happy to renew acquaintance, but the show should also make many new admirers among those encountering them for the first time.

John Russell Taylor

Television

The gauntlet of eternity

To travel up the Nile is to run the gauntlet of eternity, according to Rudyard Kipling, in the company of Max Hastings, another writer with an unerring ear for a fine phrase, we made the historic journey up Egypt's river last night. *Alarms and Excursions* (ITV) covered the crisis points in the extraordinary relationship between the British and the Nile, while accompanying the cruise launched by Thomas Cook on the anniversary of the fall of Khartoum.

The presences of Mr Cook and General Gordon pulled the story uncomfortably between tourism and military history, but the programme's bifurcated intention was effectively repaired by the beguiling vistas of palm-speckled plains and desert hills, and by Hastings's richly stimulating commentary.

As the ancient waters of the Nile slipped past the rows of steamer chairs, Hastings enroled the ship's distinguished passengers in an investigation of the British obsession with Egypt. An expatriate colonel recalled General Wingate's claim that each year, on the anniversary of the battle of Omdurman, he drank a bottle of Veuve Clicquot from the gold-mounted skull of the Dervish commander. "Quite a shocking thing to have done, really," he explained.

There was regret for the passing of the Victorian era, when a Nile cruise would last

two or three months and the travellers were erudite. Modern tourists zip through the awe-some splendours of Luxor in half a day and take their Egyptology "boned and rolled". The story of the British in Egypt was also, inevitably, filtered for consumption in an hour by the notoriously inattentive television audience, but the impression was that all the choicest morsels were included, from the young Winston Churchill's memory of a brother officer, who would not waste time seeing a temple since the experience would be profitless if he were killed, to some stirring scenes from Alexander Korda's *The Four Feathers*.

The only notable omission was a clear view of Max Hastings's face, which was regrettably shot in deep shade during most of his piece-to-camera.

Celia Brayfield

Michael Holroyd and Melvyn Bragg tomorrow debate the motion 'That Television is the enemy of Literature', in the Hungerford Room at the Royal Festival Hall: Richard Hoggart offers a few preliminary thoughts

Box against books

In the vexed matter of television's relations to literature it is as well to recognize first the distinction between periphery and centre. The periphery is occupied by programmes about books and authors; the centre contains television's attempts to present the books themselves.

The periphery is all adjuncts: items on the lives of writers or the provenance of their works and especially their landscapes, interviews, discussion programmes, between authors or critics or authors and critics, all those programmes or part-programmes so attractive to producers of arts programmes seeking visual interest, colour, confrontation. Peripherals probably do little harm even though to some people they may seem substitutes for the books they arose from; but it is doubtful if many take them that way. Nor do they much lead on to a reading of the books, any more than a champagne reception encourages you to read the detailed specification of a new car it is meant to launch.

Peripherals are essentially parasitic. Still, some are very pleasantly informative, some are beautifully shot and a few are revealing... so long as they avoid television gimmickry or arts editors' nervous resort to personalization, the pathetic fallacy or the assumption that heat generates light. In short the best are brilliant, the worst awful.

The real test comes when television sets out centrally to present, embody, a work in itself, a work of some complexity. It may well be that television tends to do better, to be truer to its own nature, when it translates a relatively thin work on to the screen. There is then less to worry about and encompass. We had best set aside here drama written for the stage. To put such a play on to television involves few new questions of principle but plenty of sophisticated technical problems and possibilities.

The biggest challenge is with material written to be read, with fiction and poetry. Poetry is so much a special case and in the end untranslatable (though again some helpful stabs have been made) that we had best leave that aside too. Fiction presents all the tackleable problems, and there are plenty of those.

Take some relative successes first. Yes, Henry James's novels can come across particularly well on television. We all know the irony there, in that he failed directly to be a dramatist. But on television those long conversations from the novels, usually in close-up and very well delivered, have a peculiar charm and cumulative force. And some of the adaptations of favourite classics – Jane Austen and Trollope are obvious instances – may open up aspects of the novels. Few of us can recreate in our heads the physical settings, the dress, the intonations, the landscapes of place and time.

The producer offers us such a visual and oral recreation. But they have not in any adequate sense, give us "the book". They have given us a reading, one reading of it, more or less gifted. The process of reading attentively a book of some penetration and depth is multiple, a matter of more than one meaning being held in place at the same time, of echoes, memories, of the figure in the carpet unfolding, of vertical resonances in play whilst the line of events pursues its

apparently horizontal way, of stopping, looking up, thinking, going back, going on. The television script of even a short novel is itself a considerable abbreviation. What stays in – probably only a few thousand words – is chosen not only to be faithful to the author's intention, though it should and above all be that, it is also decided by what the medium, the visual, the left-to-right medium does best and insistently tries to enforce on those who work in it and by what it rejects.

The result may be gripping and true to some facets of the author's art. But it is essentially an abstraction, a selecting. And by enforcing its own reading the television reading (even more than a poetry reading) excludes others, blots them out and may make it harder to discover other readings subsequently. If the producer is both brilliant and modest we may nevertheless find ourselves feeling grateful for the result. If his reading is chiefly smart we are likely to see violence done. There is a sense in which insistent visualization is inherently anti-literary, opposed to the full processes of literature, a block or hindrance. The same applies to cinema films, though for them the critical claims are habitually over-pitched: the "greatest" of films are still thin in comparison with a great novel.

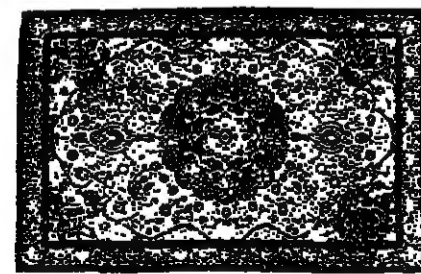
It might be useful to pursue a three-part discussion of works of art: the collaborative, the presentational or performing, and the irreducibly individual.

Film and television are the two most obviously collaborative art forms of today, industries in one sense, in another sense hand-made jobs put together on the spot each time. The main presentational or performing arts are clear too: drama and music. They have to be given public life by others, usually a number of others; but the limits of intervention by the performers, the freedoms, are much more strictly defined than are those of category one (not that you would always guess this from the indulgent "interpretations" of some theatre directors today). The third category, the individual or, more accurately, individualistic arts are the visual arts, poetry and the novel. They do not need other people to body them out publicly. They need the literary ones, an internal reader. They are non-collaborative except with that reader, non-presentational.

If we recognize the limits of television when it is handling major literary works we shall also understand better what it can do well. We will be less likely to produce transliterations which are against the spirit of the text, which set our own often rather vulgarly visual imaginations against richer literary imaginations. And a few of us, a very few, may so transcribe the elements of the text into our own medium that we throw some true light on to the thing itself; that can happen.

What we should not do is assume that television is engaged in much of a handing-on process, that the book is now more understandingly read than it was before television "presented" it. More copies may be bought. There is no evidence that more are read. There is even less evidence that the television version assists that very different process, the full attentive reading a good book requires. There are plenty of indications that television adaptations may work implicitly against that kind of reading.

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SPECTRUM

In the final part of The Peacock Male, Suzy Menkes looks at the growth of men's make-up

Where do we go from hair?

THE PEACOCK MALE

After the perms and highlights of the Seventies and the wild tribal coxcombs of the Punks in the Eighties, men of all ages are having their hair coloured. Today we also examine the march from aftershave to male fragrances

Hair has been the weathercock of style for two decades - ever since long hair became a symbol of protest and gave its name to the stage show.

Whereas changing fashions in appearance are acceptable in women, aggressively unconventional male grooming is considered threatening by society in general and by other men in particular. The tolerance pattern seems to span approximately 10 years: the long hair that caused such shock waves in 1968 (the height of the Vietnam War and the year that *Hair* was staged) was the norm by 1978.

As we have already seen with clothes, sport as much as pop influenced mainstream attitudes to hair styles. Footballers like Kevin Keegan, who permed their hair or streaked it with highlights, in the 1970s parted the waves for the colour changes that are now the height of fashion.

"Men of all ages are having colour to enrich natural hair tones, as well as 'owlights and highlights', says Robert Fielding of Regent Street, who has hair salons across the country. "Men are also asking for treatments that have traditionally been used for women. Conditioning is a priority and perming is still popular with athletic men."

Colour came in as a weapon in the new brutality of Punk. A deliberate flaunting of unnatural plumage, spiked into a Mohican coxcomb, became a tribal identity for those who

FACE FACTS:
The UK market for men's grooming and fragrance products is now worth £100 million

wanted to use appearance as a protest. There were many earlier examples of short hair (or even the Skinhead shaven scalp) used to shock society that had become accustomed to longer locks.

Hair products are one of the fastest growing sectors in the toiletries market, with more new ideas launched in the past two years than in the previous decade. These tend to fall, as do women's products, into two separate categories: hair care, includ-



Male make-up has taken over from hair as the new zone of outrageousness. Photograph by Iain McKell

ing shampoos, conditioners and controls; and styling products, the gels, mousses and spray-on colours which have completely changed the thrust of the market.

Whereas coloured hair is still considered unacceptable by most establishments from schools to business employers, the spray-on colour gives a man in a regular job the chance to transform himself into a proud peacock at night. The teenage craze last Christmas was for "make-up" parties, in which extravagant make-up and hair for both sexes took the place of the more traditional ritual of fancy-dress.

Hairdressers are in the vanguard of the changing attitudes that men have towards their grooming. Leonard of Mayfair offers salon treatments for men, including skin analysis, facial cleansing, neck and shoulder treatments and foot care.

Jalle Bakke is a make-up artist who works from a London hair salon each Saturday to create instant visages for both men and women for fashionable club evenings. "Most men want something quite subtle", he says. "I

don't use lipstick."

The entire subject of male make-up is viewed with the suspicion, derision and downright hostility once reserved for the powdered wigs and face patches which were damned in the 17th century by a critic who described "a strange-feminine age, when men strive to imitate women."

Male cosmetics are the new zone of outrageousness and are seen by many people as war-paint in a struggle against society. It all started harmlessly enough with tanning products which tinted the skin to a slightly darker tone and became more-or-less accepted in show business circles where image is all.

Boy George's make-up has been much publicized and commercialized (he has even brought out a how-to-do book), but his make-up, for all its brilliance, remains conventional: that is, he uses cosmetics as both men (in the past) and women have always done, to enhance and improve his appearance.

The wider side of pop has a stronger and more disturbing image, summed up by the vivid and

prophetic make-up created for Stanley Kubrick's film *A Clockwork Orange* in 1971. This graphic make-up, which pre-dated Punk and positively identified make-up as evil, was created by women's visagiste Barbara Daly.

Very few fans follow pop heroes like Boy George or David Bowie into their wider fights of facial fancy. But young men, especially those connected with the visual and pop worlds, or those in the fashion industry, are now wearing discreet make-up.

These cosmetics are bought from ordinary make-up counters or borrowed from the bathroom shelf. The possibility of opening up a new cosmetic market for half the world's population is commercially appealing (the has even brought out a how-to-do book), but his make-up, for all its brilliance, remains conventional: that is, he uses cosmetics as both men (in the past) and women have always done, to enhance and improve his appearance.

Men's fragrance is currently the fastest growing area in the industry, say Aramis, a division of Estée Lauder with three different men's grooming ranges. Aramis Original

(launched in 1966), Aramis 900 (1970), Aramis Devin (1977/78) and JHL (launched July 1982). A man whose idea of grooming is a splash of aftershave will be astounded to learn that there are now 143 different products in these men's ranges which are the U.K. market leaders.

"There has been a strong polarization towards the premium sector in the men's fragrance market, while the mass market products have remained static," says Marbert Man.

This view is echoed by Colin Rimmer, marketing manager Charles of the Ritz and Yves St Laurent, who says: "Premium brands, that is the finer fragrances, have increased by 18.3 per cent in the year from 1982 to 1983, whereas the ordinary brands have seen just a 10 per cent rise. In fact the men's market has not expanded at the growth that most companies have anticipated. But what is interesting is that the balance of purchases is now changing - five years ago more women were buying fragrances for men, but now men particularly under 40 are buying for themselves."

"The continental man has never had any reservations about buying eau de toilette rather than aftershave, whereas the British man preferred the latter. Now, however, the British man is buying more eau de toilette."

At Selfridge's the Beauty Playground, a promotional scheme where

FACE FACTS:
Sales of high fashion fragrances for men are growing at the rate of 10 per cent per year

customers are encouraged to experiment with new products, men's grooming now plays an important part after being introduced in a small way two years ago.

Sport is the key to making men's face and hair products commercial. Thus the range of male toiletries and accessories brought out by Boots last autumn took sports as its name and theme, and through that introduced a Body Fitness rub (the female's body cream) and After Shave Balm (moisturizer). All grooming products tend to emphasize action as in "After Shave Splash" or "Active Body Moisturizer". Sports stars not only endorse clothing and create fashion images, but have also been drawn into grooming: snooker champions Steve Davis, Terry Griffiths and Tony Meo launched the Matchroom range of toiletries for Gyna.

The shock of the new is as quick to fade as a moist lipstick. We are already accustomed to the man's *batterie de toilette* encroaching on female toiletries on the bathroom shelf. We may soon be giving him space in front of the make-up mirror.

Filing tray (FT) to own bust (OB)

Around 2,000 graduates last week sat the qualifying test for the board which selects fast-stream entrants into the Home Civil Service. By July, 50 or 60 fledgeling Permanent Secretaries will be launched on the fast stream, into the dizzy heights of *Yes Minister's* Sir Humphrey Appleby.

It won't be without its perils. Many will run aground in the shallows and others will get stuck on sandbanks halfway. There are at least five grades and 30 years between entry as an Administration Trainee (AT) and the top (TOP). Very few succeed.

To see what lies in store for this small select band, I visited the course. Accompanied by a shrewd Deputy Office Manager (DOM), I tramped the corridors of power at the Department of the Environment (DoE). The second most important thing the young ATs will learn is that by their offices shall ye know them. The first will be to talk in initials.

Civil Service life for ATs begins in an office shared with a Principal or occasionally a Higher Executive Officer (HEO). Very rarely they will be given a room on their own, which will be 72 sq ft because this is the standard size of a room with one window (module). They are, however, entitled to 75 sq ft.

Fortunately, as they will almost certainly share, they are entitled to the same carpet as a Principal or an HEO which is low loop. They are also entitled to an office table with a two-drawer suspended pedestal, a tubular chair with a stretch nylon cover which comes in five colourways and, if it is necessary, either a green correspondence tray or a linking/stacking correspondence tray.

The routing-out of the unsuitable during the six-month selection process is vicious. According to a booklet offering a guide to the Civil Service Selection Board (the CSSB or Si-Bee), suitable candidates have "high intelligence, good judgement, penetration, foresight and the commonsense appreciation of what is likely to be politically acceptable". What they don't have is "overweening personal ambition".

Under-Secretaries earn £29,500 - and they get curtains

Gazing through a module across the tops of SW1, I recalled the horror of a fast streamer, currently on a small plateau, for whom the memory of his selection is as painful as ever years later.

"The first test was all right, a bit like *The Times* crossword. But the first board was terrible. It went on for three days with this non-stop competition and assessment. The first question the psychologist asked me was 'How do you get on with your mother?'"

At the end of the third day I had to write an assessment of all the others on my course, naming the person I thought would do best in the Civil Service and the person I most wanted to go on holiday with.

Once accepted, the first step up the ladder, usually made within two years, is to Higher Executive Officer (Development) or HEO (D). A chap from the Management and Personnel Office (MPO) explained that HEOs (D) are put into a series of jobs which will "sort out the wheat from the chaff".

This could be debilitating. But to prevent debilitating insecurity, the Civil Service ensures continuity of furniture. Whatever the department, civil servants of equal rank have the same entitlements.

"Here we have two HEOs working in the same office," said the DOM. "As you can see, they have three modules or 213 sq ft, which is more than their entitlement. HEOs are entitled to 100 sq ft each, less 10-15 per cent if they are sharing. But there you are."

From HEO (D) a fast mover might jump up to Principal, bypassing Senior Executive Of-

ficer (SEO), after three or four years. On today's rates, his or her income will have gone from £5,786-£8,088 as an AT to between £12,399 and £16,656. Principals are entitled to a bookcase and some more tables and chairs.

The responsibility of Principals can be positively awesome. They may oversee research into whole areas of policy which affect the running of the nation on which they will be expected to advise the minister, who may know nothing.

"Strictly speaking," said the Principal, into whose office the DOM had shown me, "I shouldn't be here. You aren't actually entitled to single occupancy (SO) until you are a Senior Principal."

"I am actually only entitled to two windows, so I want to stress that this is a temporary arrangement." There were two small pictures on the wall. They were his and his wife's.

To avoid insecurity the Civil Service ensures continuity of furniture

to pictures from the Property Services Agency (PSA) until he is an Under-Secretary.

From Principal, the move is to Senior Principal, then Assistant Secretary, depending on vacancies and potential. By this time the high-flyer will have been singled out. Those chosen to serve in a private office, for instance, as private secretary to the head of department, can probably feel quite pleased with themselves. Being moved to the Treasury is also encouraging.

Most of those who set out on the fast stream can expect to become Assistant Secretaries, and when they do they will be given a better class of carpet. Out goes the low loop, in comes the Arbor Rage (nylon acrylic). They will also be entitled to a visitor's chair (low back, swivel base).

After this promotion, becomes trickier, especially in the new single-track, cost-effective Civil Service. Where, so far, promotions have been handled within departments, the move from Assistant Secretary to Under-Secretary has to be approved by the MP and all Under-Secretaries-to-be are sent on a six-week top management programme.

Under-Secretaries earn £29,500 and get curtains. Not surprisingly, competition is now very tight. The fast streamer temporarily becomes a fast mover. You are a 42-year-old Under-Secretary you are going to spend a lot of time picking off your rivals.

The Under-Secretary said: "Appointments after Assistant Secretary are a lottery, surprising, but on the whole, the people you expect to do well, do."

"They are people with a great technical facility for understanding and compiling briefs, an ability to feel their way into a good, understanding relationship with ministers."

Deputy Secretaries have no more entitlements office-wise than Under-Secretaries. This seems a bit hard. They earn seven grand a year, however. Permanent Secretaries, on the other hand, do as well as they like, within the realms of the PSA store room.

"I do not care much about furniture myself," the Permanent Secretary said. "This lot was all here when I arrived." We looked down the room with its smart desk and three smart chairs, its sitting area for visitors and the conference table with its other end "The is, except for the bust of Disraeli," he added. "I brought this with me from over the road. It's been the envy of several Tory ministers, I can tell you."

As we walked back to the starting point I reflected it was a long way from AT to the knighthood of a Permanent Secretary. "This is no place for a permanent secretary," said the DOM. "This is no place for a permanent secretary who cannot take a different line from the one he thinks is best."

Barbara Toner

Facing up to fashion

Men who make up using cosmetics discreetly rather than painting on a new "face". They use products bought from ordinary make-up counters or borrowed from girl friends. "Does your man borrow your make-up?" is one of the new slogans at Selfridge's Beauty Playground Promotion. Skin care products are usually from the men's grooming ranges but may include other non-sexist treatments such as Nivea or Oil of Ulay. Making up for work is restricted to the fashion orientated jobs. Professional make-up artists are used for advice and for special make-up for clubs.

Above left: Jalle Bakke, professional make-up artist to both sexes at Zoo in Covent Garden. "For men I use foundation then translucent powder on top, with smoky eyeshadow to bring out colour, a little mascara and defined eyebrows. No lipstick."

Left: Ian Dealhoy, manager of Flip fashion store. "I am a straight guy interested in fashion and image. The foundation and eye definer is quite subtle, but the mascara takes a bit of getting used to."

Right: Steve, 18. "I am just a beginner at wearing make-up, it is great fun."



Left: Billy, 20, from Stephen King's *Maximum Overdrive* and a Max Factor foundation, but I use it sparingly."

Right: Marque, restaurant manager. Had his make-up done professionally. "It is good to be taught how to do it, rather than make mistakes. I wear make-up when I am going out in the evening."



Above: Gordon, stylist at Antenna hair salon. "I think it is good that men can wear make-up, but it will be some time until it is socially acceptable to the majority."

Right: Daniel James, designer at Hyper Hyper. Wearing foundation, eye definer and mascara. "I have worn make-up for 10 years."

Pictures: Russell Makin
Interviews: Christine Paine

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What readers may not realize is that TV's arrival in the House of Lords today has led to the creation of a completely new ancient ceremony. *The Mourning of the Cameras*. As this will not be seen on TV, we bring you today the whole of this charming ritual.

If the entrance to the Lords' debating chamber, a guard shall bar the way:

Guard: Who goes there?

Camera: The Lords' cameraman.

Guard: Pass, cameraman.

Camera: Thanks, sunshine.

Guard: Carry this box for me, wouldst thou?

He shall be followed by the lighting man who, on seeing the cameraman, shall say:

Lighting: Hail, cameraman.

Camera: Hail, Tony.

Lighting: Is this small chamber where we shall leave our clobber?

Camera: Nay, son. This is where it all happens.

Lighting: Strewth! The very corridors are bigger than this. How do they get them all in here?

moreover... Miles Kington

Camera: The answer, briefly, is: they don't. Then shall enter a sound man, saying:

Sound: Hail, all. Know where the canteen is, then?

After the arrival of other TV craftsmen, there follow the rituals of Unpacking, Chaos, Rising of Tempers, Losing of the Zoom Lens, Finding of the Zoom Lens and Taking of Tea.

Then enter the Technical Manager

Technical: What's the trouble, then?

All: No trouble. What trouble?

Technical: Camera 3, that's what. On Camera 3 I am getting precious nothing.

All: What ho, Geoff's asleep again! Awake, O Geoff!

Camera 3: Hey, what? What's that? Where am I?

All: Geoff's very sleepy, squire. He has travelled far today.

Technical: Wherefore has he travelled far?

All: To get the overnight allowance, sirrah.

Then follow the Checking of Sound, Camera Rehearsal and Hanging of Spotlight from Archbishop's Dais. Enter Director.

Director: That light. It must not be hung from yonder Bishop's dais. I'll move it.

All: Oh no, thou won't. That's Sid's job.

Director: Where's Sid?

Lighting: In the boozier.

All: He means, he's taking his break.

Director: Well, someone get him.

Sound: I will!

Now follows the Practice of Growing of Tension. Enter Technical Manager.

Fake Lord: I therefore move for advertising on the BBC...

Technical: Never mind that. There is no sound at all.

Where's sound?

All: In the pub with Sid.

Technical: Dear God! Their Lordships will be here ere long and we are doomed.

All: Don't throw a wobbly,

squire. All will be well. Enter Sid and Sound. Sound: You won't believe the canteen they've got here! Licensed all day, and the barmaids call you Lord!

Technical: Mind not that. There's work to do. Sid, move that light.

Sid: All in God's time. For that, I need an assistant.

Technical: Lord save us! Enter Lord Olivier.

Olivier: And I am here, to protest this monstrous imposition of VAT on books! The very heavens cry...

Sound: Not now, my Lord. You are an hour early.

Exit Lord Olivier.

All in all, I'd rather be doing *March of the Day*.

Then follow the rituals of Flashing of Fuses, Collapse of Lighting and Final Panic. Then shall Sound say:

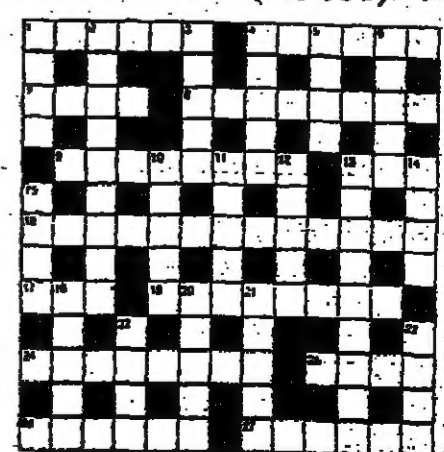
Sound: Who knows where is the nearest loo?

All: Not now. Too late. We start. They come.

There then follows the televising of the Lords as on your screens later today.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 551)

ACROSS
1 Polo period (6)
2 Horse hiring (6)
3 Course file (4)
4 Cumulative (8)
5 Defamed in writing (8)
6 Favourite (3)
7 Eucharist (4,9)
8 Failure (3)
9 Women's underwear (8)
10 Objective actions (8)
11 Transaction (4)
12 Head armour (6)
13 Entangle (6)
14 Heal (4)
15 Inexpert (9)
16 Use (5)
17 Mansion gatehouse (3)
18 Ballot (4)
19 Entertaining sketches (5)
20 Surplus (5)
21 Sharp claws (5)
22 Tennis 40-all (5)
23 Class advantage (9)
24 General style (4)
25 Thump (4)
26 Clasp (5)
27 Tote (5)
28 Lawnmower (9)
29 Evident (3)
30 Remains (5)
31 Lay out (3)
32 Eaves (3)
33 Shoplifter (10)
34 Transcript (12)
35 Tint (4)
36 Team (16)
37 Vitamin (9)
38 Kayak (6)
39 Pulp (2)
40 Lei (2)



DOWN
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2 Inexpert (9)
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4 Mansion gatehouse (3)
5 Ballot (4)
6 Entertaining sketches (5)
7 Surplus (5)
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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Clare Colvin meets Jennifer Dawson, who radically challenged our attitude to the mentally ill

Shattering the plate glass window

When Jennifer Dawson's novel on madness, *The Ha-Ha*, was first published 25 years ago, the psychiatric doctrine of R. D. Laing was still unknown to most people, including her. The novel asked the question which the libertarian psychiatric movement of the Sixties became concerned with: who was mad, the individual or the society in which he lived?

The Ha-Ha won the James Tait Black Memorial Award and considerable critical acclaim - though

'She is angry at how society treats its misfits'

It also drew a short, embarrassed review in *The Times* on the difficulty of writing about such a subject. It brought a new insight to the mind of a schizophrenic at the time when most laymen did not know the difference between the mentally ill and the mentally retarded. The book gave a vivid picture of what it is like to feel that you are looking at the world, as she wrote in one image, "through a plate glass window" and of the other existence that seems to a schizophrenic more real than everyday life.

It is being republished tomorrow after some years out of print and its

author, now living in a Cotswold village near Oxford, is pleasantly surprised that this book, which was written far more quickly and with less effort than any subsequently, has achieved this status.

She wrote it around the age of 30, more or less as an afterthought when her epic novel - in which rain, blood, sleet and snow fell for nearly 500 pages - had been rejected by several publishers. She had intended to write a love story, but it turned into a protest against the inhumanity of psychiatric hospitals, both as a social worker and, earlier, as a patient. Josephine, the clever, solitary heroine who is removed from Oxford college life and committed to a mental institution, is drawn partly from a nervous breakdown she suffered in her third year at St Anne's College.

"Like Josephine, I got a great shock when I went to university. I came from a lower middle-class family and, as far as I was concerned, the state maintained grammar school in South-east London where I lived was the crème de la crème. I had no clothes and no money, and I was suddenly thrown among aristocratic men and women, people who knew how to treat a tutor on equal terms. The story was really about a girl who did not have the knack of existing, and the images in it reflected my own preoccupations."

Oxford in the Fifties was still a male preserve and women like Jennifer felt themselves there on sufferance, though the more socially adept regarded it as a superior finishing school. It was also a time when the feminist movement was non-existent. Women had succeeded in getting to university but, once there, they were competing mostly with each other.

She still does not feel at home in Oxford, though she is now firmly in its radius. Her husband, Michael Hinton, is a philosophy don, and they live in Charlbury, one of those mellow stone villages that attract their share of writers and academics. She works at the dining table in the stone-flagged living room, the silence only broken by the sound of

her neighbour's power saw - the most effective writer's block she knows.

She has written four novels and a volume of short stories since *The Ha-Ha*, and her second book, *Fowler's Share*, received the Cheltenham Festival Award. All the books deal with people who are in some way living on the edge of society, who do not fit into the conventional world. Her experience as a social worker has left her with a feeling of anger at the way society treats its "misfits".

"When I was working at a psychiatric hospital near Worcester in the late Fifties, doctors were only just beginning to realize that any of the patients had become institutionalized, and that was a disease in itself. I never saw the virtues of the old hospitals. They were built as if mental patients were oblivious to their surroundings. They did not even plaster the walls and there was an extraordinary smell of the work house. Patients learnt how to pretend that they were becoming 'normal'. They would flatter themselves against the wall and say, 'Very good, sir' as the doctor passed, as their stock response."

"It was the beginning of the never-had-it-so-good era, and people were being pushed out to the newly-built council estates from their familiar homes in the town. Most of the patients at the hospital lived on

these estates and I always thought there was a connection between their mental alienation and the alienation of their environment."

"But in the 1950s no one really discussed their problems. The hospital rules on the wall stated that any complaints against the hospital had to be made to the Justice in Lunacy, that patients were not allowed to discuss their condition with any other patient, and that all letters must be uncensored."

"I wrote the book a year after the

'Now the mentally sick end up in bus shelters'

Mental Health Act of 1959, which was intended to lead to a more liberal and open-door attitude towards mental illness and before the libertarian movement of the mid-Sixties. It is ironic to see the way that the movement has been exploited by those politicians who saw the economic advantages of "the patient's place-in-the-community" slogan. Now the mentally sick are pushed out of institutions and end up gathering in bus shelters and waiting rooms."

The Ha-Ha by Jennifer Dawson, to be republished tomorrow by Virago Modern Classics at £2.95.



Jennifer Dawson, pleasantly surprised at her book's success

The National Housewives Register is 25 years old and still keeping women's interests alive outside the home

Politics, poetry - but please, no nappy rash

Maureen Nicol moved to Hong Kong last year with her husband, Brian. But she knew she would have no trouble finding friends. For the organization she founded 25 years ago had flourished and become a worldwide network.

This year, the National Housewives Register - or the Liberal-Minded Housebound Housewives Register, as it was originally known - celebrates its quarter century. Today there are more than 1,200 NHR groups in Britain; nearly 200 affiliated groups overseas and more than 24,000 members. And, according to Maureen, NHR still holds a special place in the hearts of women. It was first suggested in 1960, when she first suggested the idea of a register to put like-minded women in touch with each other.

The women who took up the idea so enthusiastically were those who felt they were stagnating at home. NHR was an attractive alternative to the Women's Institute or mother and baby club. Meeting informally at members' homes, the women discuss topics from politics to poetry, anything, in fact, but domestic issues such as nappy rash or how to make interesting meals out of mince.

As the NHR's history sheet says: "Even in 1960, the general attitude to married women with children being other than housewives or having interests beyond coffee mornings or perhaps some voluntary work was somewhat scornful. The idea that a housewife might feel mentally crushed or in need of mental stimulation was received with more than mild surprise."

"Far fewer wives could drive or had access to a car, some husbands were unused to the idea of their wives going to meetings in the evenings and attempts to get young children into a housewife with young children and to aspire beyond menial paid jobs were very much frowned upon."

If it is easy to see why NHR was initially a success, it is perhaps harder to see why it continues to grow. Maureen Nicol never thought it would expand the way it has, and adds: "NHR still offers women friendship and stimulation. The meetings give you a chance to stretch your mind and for some people they can be a kind of springboard, restoring confidence, helping women to feel at ease in open discussion, even to take on responsible jobs after a break of several years."

"When it all began I felt housewives were those who were trapped in a rut. But now it seems clear that even career-minded women who go back to work after having children can also be in a rut, even if it is a different kind. After all, even if you have some kind of profession, when you are at work you tend to be meeting the same kind of people, however interesting the job. You might still feel the need to discuss the kind of issues you would not normally give time to. That's what NHR is all about."

National Organiser Pru Kraling also points out that today many women with young children are still housebound.

"However, an increasing proportion of our members are employed outside the home and this, presumably, reflects the higher percentage of women who work now than did 25 years ago," she says.

Jenny Knowelden, of West Warrington, Cambridgeshire, joined a group near her home when her children were small. They are now aged six and eight and Jenny has been working part-time in a friend's business for the past two years. She says: "When I went back into a job I continued with NHR because it had given me so much. At work, the contact you have with people isn't always the most rewarding; you do have something in common with the women at NHR."

I joined initially for all the



Gill Hicks, Pru Kraling and Jenny Knowelden (left to right) belong to the West Warrington branch of NHR which Pru founded when she moved to the village four years ago. In many ways the group typifies the 1985 face of NHR. The members come from a variety of backgrounds and the age range is very wide - the youngest is in her mid-20s, the eldest 80. Some members are married, some single, some have children, some are childless. Some work full-time, others part time. Some do no paid work outside

the home at all.

Pru says: "We are a typical group, doing typical things. We've discussed violence on television, education, spare-part surgery. At our next meeting we'll be having a look at the *Warwick Report*. My husband says we always make NHR sound very earnest, but it is fun too. We do have light-hearted evenings when we talk about things like our most embarrassing moment."

The number of working women has changed the membership profile of the NHR, but there have been other changes too. A number of the original members have remained - and reached their forties - they have attracted women of the same age group. Widows, recently retired ladies and those who have been made redundant have also been swelling the ranks.

In fact, the NHR can hardly be called a *housewives' register* any more. Pru Kraling says: "Nobody really likes the name, because the word housewife is such a turn-off. Only nobody can agree on an alternative. We tend to use the initials and we always say that if someone asks what NHR stands for, don't say what it is, explain what you do."

Most NHR groups meet fortnightly in the evenings and the kinds of topics discussed

can range from the changing role of men, to life after death, from biological engineering, to local history. The 25th anniversary celebrations in April start with a two-day national conference at Southampton's Bolderwood Conference Centre, where the theme is to be "Haunting and Dispersing", a close look at the more controversial aspects of conception, birth and death.

Maureen Nicol will be flying in from Hong Kong to join hundreds of other members whose enthusiasm is likely to ensure the NHR flourishes for another 25 years.

NHR National Office: 245 Warwick Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 7AH will provide details of local groups if you send an S.A.E.

Lee Rodwell

Running in: the lament of the long-distance runner

I blame it all on Pheidippides. If he hadn't gone and run from Marathon to Athens with news of the Greek victory over the invading Persians, I would not now be creeping into the ice-bound wastes of Richmond Park before breakfast in a (probably vain) attempt to appease fate.

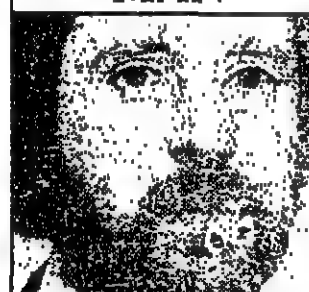
The 385 yards should present no problem: it is the preceding 26 miles which I dread. On one level, the running of a marathon in England in 1985 is about the least enterprising, the least original thing a body could do. Last year, for example, 18,468 took part in the London event, which has become the crowning run of the calendar. Take into account the proliferation of full and half marathons, the length and breadth of the country and it soon becomes apparent that if scarcity value is what you are after, you might just as well take up angling. Not so long ago, it was the arts festival which no town could afford to be without; today, the marathon is the seal of civic-mindedness.

I am not, I promise, after scarcity value; all I crave is an easygoing morning plot of road, in the middle of a ribbon of runners (all right joggers) whose competitive instincts are being exercised solely on the self. That is the object of the exercise - to settle once and for all the debate in the mind as to the body: "You shall run a marathon", and the body shouts back up: "No way, square."

I don't care what Dr Johnson said about London - I'm off out of it for my marathon. If I finish up like that poor crumpled creature whom they keep showing on the TV, or if I decide to skulk shamefully for the nearest railway station and let the train take the strain for the rest of the distance, then I would rather do it away from the limelight of the capital. Wolverhampton it is. Late March.

I have to admit that by the time of the race, I will have been doing a lot of about eight months' preparation. I nearly used the word training, except that at the end of a week like this, when I have skived more often than I have strived, it would give a false impression.

This weather (second best target of abuse after Pheidippides) is enough to make the stoutest spirit falter. The morning is dark with piles of dirty old snow. Only a few of the neighbours, myself excluded,



Mind controls body. Or does it? In an occasional column Alan Franks gets ready for the big race

have shovelled the ice from the front of the gates, so that running up the pavement is hazardous mixture of traction and slippage; the park gate seems to be welded shut by rime, and yields to pressure with an angry crackle; the basement window of the nearby house is a warm yellow oblong of light, behind which the pig prices are being recited in Radio Four's cosy tones. It is at such times that you wonder what you have got yourself into.

At least the park is mercifully free from dogs on a day like this. (By the way, it is never the big ones who are the problems. They are all moths and trespassers, and if you carry on, you are not let to let you pass, unmolested. The little fellows are the ones to watch - the corgis and Yorkshire terriers, which can so easily bring a runner down, scissored between his shins.)

Last summer I suppose I was doing about three and a half miles a morning - a total of roughly 25 miles a week. By mid-December, I was doing a fairly regular circuit of the park - exactly seven miles. My time for that has never been better

than 50 minutes, which means that, on a rough but realistic calculation, I shall not have a hope in hell of completing a marathon in under three and a half hours. By the end of this month I intend to start doing a weekly run of 13 miles, and it is a sobering thought that it will probably not be completed significantly faster than the time it takes for a proper runner to do the full 26 miles 385 yards.

What I am saying is that I shall (if not actually reduced to a walk) be travelling at about half the speed of the top chaps; they run each mile of the distance far faster than I could run one single mile, and can finish off the race by running the last one in something ridiculous like 4 mins 46 secs.

But back to mundanities. The park roads have been narrowed by the borders of frozen snow, and you do get some filthy looks from the oncoming drivers. But if you stick to the grass verge, of the sporadic footpath, there is no grip to be had, no matter how pricey your footwear.

The debate runs on: Mind: "We should make Kingston Gate in 10 minutes and Richmond after another 25." Body: "Joking, mate." Mind: "What's the problem?" Body: "Have you noticed we're the only ones out this morning?" Mind: "So we are. Lovely to have the place to yourself, isn't it?"

And so on. And on. As I say, I blame it on Pheidippides, although I expect that even if he had never established the marathonomenon, some other bright spark would have done it at a subsequent battle, and we would all be going in for the London Agincourt or the Crawley Crécy.

If I am in one third as good a shape as the race's beguiter, I shall not complain, although I don't think I can match his training schedule: Athens to Sparta (150 miles) in under two days, and then back again (a slightly slower time on this occasion owing to a long chat with Pan). That's the equivalent of ten times round the park every day. No thanks.

How to spread a little bitterness at the breakfast table

Yorkshire and Humberside are still doing their bit. The average person in those parts still spreads nearly 3lb of marmalade a year. But the West Midlands, bottom of the marmalade-eating league for their less than enthusiastic 1½lb or so in a full twelve months, are not really trying.

Nationally, marmalade consumption has dropped by almost a third during the past 20 years - proof that toast is going the way of bacon and eggs. Weight-watching as well as clock-watching is blamed, and a number of marmalade manufacturers have responded by lowering the sugar content of their products.

My first experiments with reduced sugar recipes were also prompted by the idea of cutting calories with as little loss of satisfaction as possible. Last January I made a whole-fruit Seville orange marmalade with much less sugar than usual. I thought it tasted particularly good and so did other marmalade fanatics.

Obviously this kind of marmalade is less sweet than conventionally proportioned recipes and it allows the pungency of the bitter Seville to dominate. Properly made and stored, it keeps as well as



Shona Crawford Poole

any other marmalade, so this year I have made a reduced sugar version of Oxford marmalade, which is one of the darker, chunkier varieties. It really is a tongue-tingler.

Conventional recipes make about 7lb of marmalade from 2lb of oranges and 4lb of sugar. A reduced sugar recipe makes about 5lb of marmalade from 3lb of oranges and a little over 2lb of sugar. Fermentation and moulds are the potential hazards of lowering the sugar ratio of preserves, but both can be avoided by high standards of hygiene and by storing the marmalade in a cool place. It should not, however, be offered for sale. Commercial manufacturers employ addi-

tional preservatives to keep within regulations.

Oxford marmalade (low sugar). Makes about 2.5 kg (5lb).

1.35 kg (3lb) Seville oranges
1 lemon

1 kg (2lb 5oz) golden granulated or preserving sugar
1 tablespoon molasses (optional)

Line a sieve with a square of muslin and set it over a bowl. Cut the oranges and lemon in halves, squeeze the juice and strain it into the bowl. Use a spoon to scoop the pith and pips into the sieve. Tie up the muslin into a bag and put it in a preserving pan (or other large pan) with the juice.

Cut the orange and lemon peel into short, thick strips and add them to the pan with 2.25 litres (4 pints) water. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer until the peel is very tender and the liquid is well reduced - about two hours. As the peel will toughen a little after the sugar is added, make sure that it is really tender at this stage.

Lift out the bag of pith and pips and squeeze it well over the pan. Now add the sugar and molasses and stir the mixture over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved completely.

Simmer the marmalade for about one and a half hours until it is dark and has reached setting point. (To test for setting, drop a small spoonful of marmalade on to a cold plate. If it stiffens and forms a skin quite quickly it will set.)

Remove the pan from the heat, skim the marmalade if necessary. Put in very clean jars preheated in a cool oven (110°C/225°F, gas mark 4). Seal the jars when they are quite cold and store the marmalade in a cool, dark place.

The cured loin of pork joints sold by Marks & Spencer in pieces weighing 1lb - 2lb are one of my stand-bys. They are vacuum-packed, like bacon, and can lurk in the fridge for a week or more, ready to make an easy, meaty meal at little notice.

Like bacon joints and gammon, cured pork loin may be boiled or baked and served plain or glazed. Marmalade mixed with mustard is a very good glaze. Do not be afraid to use plenty of hot English mustard for a definite flavour.

The heat of the oven will kill the taste of the mustard. To glaze any piece of pork or gammon, simmer or roast it up to the last 30 minutes of its recommended cooking time. Then remove the skin (if it is

still wearing it) and paint the meat with a mixture of three parts of marmalade to one of mustard. Finish cooking it in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3), basting it once or twice with more glaze.

Queen Victoria would undoubtedly have sampled Lyrod pudding during her travels in Scotland. This version, taught to students of D. Williamson's cookery school in Edinburgh in the mid-19th century, appears in F. Marian McNeill's *The Scots Kitchen*.

Lyrod pudding. Serves four to six.

600ml (1 pint) milk
55g (2oz) semolina
55g (2oz) caster sugar
55g (2oz) crushed ruffia biscuits
30g (1oz) butter

3 eggs, separated
1 tablespoon orange marmalade

For the sauce:
1 egg
30g (1oz) caster sugar
150ml (½ pint) milk
30g (1oz) ground almonds
1 tablespoon orange-flower water

Put the milk in a saucepan and bring to the boil. Add the semolina and stir well. Add the sugar and biscuits and stir well. Add the butter and eggs, separated, and stir well. Add the marmalade and stir well. Pour the mixture into a pudding basin and steam for an hour and a quarter. Turn out and serve with almond sauce.

"Mix together in a small saucepan one egg with 1oz of sugar, one ½ of milk, 1oz of ground sweet almonds, and one tablespoonful of orange-flower water. Put it on over a slow fire and stir with a switch till it becomes like thick cream, but do not let it boil."

This pudding is very light and moist. It almost doubles in size while steaming, so fill the bowl no more than half full.

A thinned marmalade sauce might be more interesting than the bland Victorian original.

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The town determined to join the city life

The motto on Wolverhampton's crest of arms reads "Out of darkness cometh light". The people of the town are hoping that the legend will prove prophetic in 1985 after suffering from a steep decline in its traditional West Midlands industrial base.

The town, once described as halfway to everywhere because of its location at the heart of Britain's industrial powerhouse, is this year celebrating its millennium with a guarded optimism that the process of economic regeneration will bring better times.

Wolverhampton is afflicted by many of the social problems of an urban area hard hit by recession. High unemployment, decaying houses and industries and a large ethnic minority population have been recognized by the Government as causing the area enormous difficulties. The authorities, led by the borough council, are seeking a fresh strategy to inject new life into the town.

There has been a series of blows

The town, standing on the edge of the Black Country, is making its second application for city status. The borough of Wolverhampton, which incorporates the towns of Bilston, Tettenhall and Wednesfield, is the largest single employer, with 15,000 workers, following the dramatic fall in employment in the old "metal bashing" industries.

There has been a series of hammer blows in the last decade, including the loss of 2,400 jobs when British Steel Corporation closed its Bilston plant, the closure of Guy

Motors truck factory, which cut 740 jobs and marked the end of motor assembly in the town, and the decision by several large companies, such as Courtaulds, to pull out.

The unemployment rate is now 18.6 per cent, with an additional 3,500 on special employment schemes, and the number of long-term unemployed, while the recession was felt harder than in most areas because of its prosperous past, there is still a great deal of manufacturing left in the town.

During the 1960s, with the boom in the motor industry, unemployment was a rock-bottom 0.5 per cent. The middle of that decade represented the peak of the town's recent fortunes and a steady decline accelerated in 1978 with more than 600 acres of derelict land in the borough, three million square feet of vacant industrial land and one million square feet of vacant residential premises.

Leaders of the Labour-controlled council do not hide their bitterness at what they regard as the cavalier attitude of some companies in closing viable operations and also at Government policies which they blame for a large part of Wolverhampton's problems. Now the council has forged links with other West Midlands authorities to find a common policy for the region's problems.

A £20,000 survey commissioned by the four authorities advised them to concentrate on consolidating present industries, encouraging businesses to embrace new technology and to improve the environment to make it more attractive to prospective employers.

Wolverhampton council also offers financial backing to groups trying to set up co-operatives, and since 1981 the number has risen from five to 25 - each employing between three and 12 people. Labour leaders hope that such co-operatives could form the nucleus of thriving businesses in the future.

At the end of last year Wolverhampton was made an "intermediate area", enabling it to offer assistance to companies moving their operations to the town. However, research undertaken by the town's polytechnic, which worked closely with the council in the industrial and employment fields, has identified that the prime concern should be to "halt the rot".

Senior officials at the polytechnic claim that work on improving the environment and enhancing the town's image must be done before job creation schemes are launched. "Many of the town's long established companies which have weathered the recession have done so only by making large cuts in their workforces. Goodyear, which has been making tyres in Wolverhampton since 1927, employs just over 3,500 workers on its 100-acre site compared with a peak of 6,500 in the mid-1970s. The major redundancy programme recently announced by Michelin at its Midlands plants sent a

tremor through the Goodyear workforce, although the management believes it is better placed to survive in a highly-competitive market because it took remedial action several years ago.

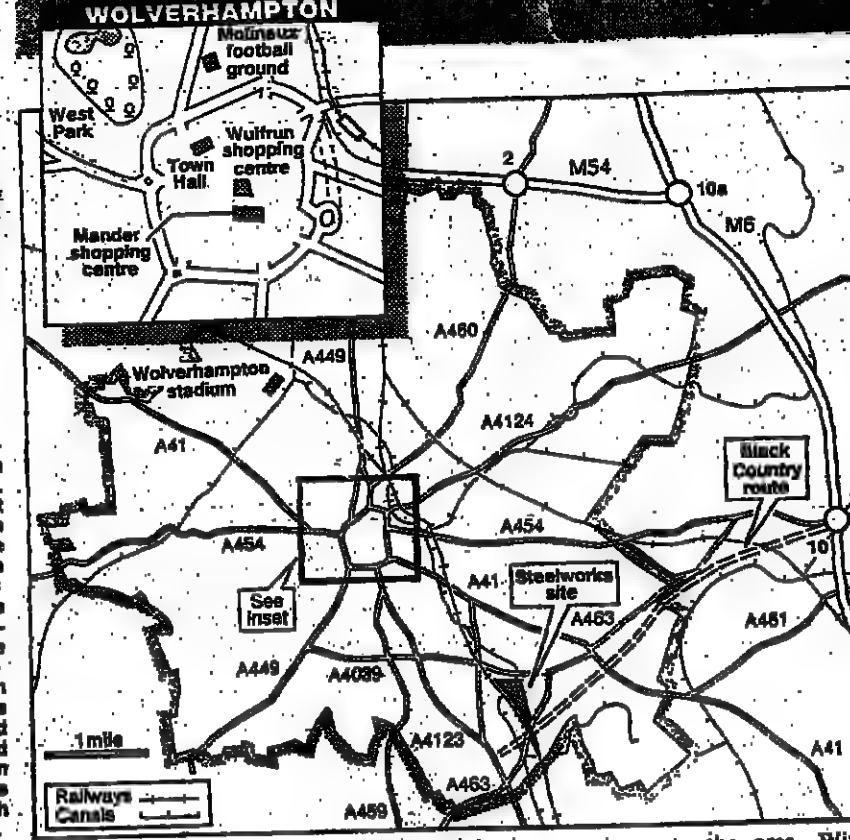
The long tradition of the town being a centre for political controversy continues with a highly-charged debate taking place over the council's plans to close four schools, and group six into tertiary colleges, which opponents suggest will dilute the quality of education. But the council, which spends 70 per cent of its budget on education, denies this and says that experience of tertiary colleges elsewhere show that academic standards are maintained.

The Labour council caused another controversy recently with its recent decision to end the traditional appointment of a solicitor as chief executive and chose instead Michael Lyons, a 35-year-old economist, for the newly-created post of principal officer and policy co-ordinator. Mr Lyons, who started work at the beginning of this month, brings to the job experience gained working in the West Midlands County Council's economic development unit.

The council's ruling group, whose leaders describe their politics as democratic socialism, is committed to high spending to cure the town's problems, but

Queen Square, Wolverhampton, in 1871 and 1985. Prince Albert has lost his reins and the railings in the intervening years. The remains, but the medieval-looking buildings on the right have been replaced by a bank, and the building on the left has retained much of the old style.

has a strict policy of not exceeding Government-imposed spending limits. The time is close for the annual rate fixing, and local speculation that the council plan a 15 per cent increase has provoked industrial concerns into trying to mount a campaign against such



a large increase. Goodyear estimates a 15 per cent rise would cost the company an extra £150,000 a year. Wolverhampton's lively political atmosphere is an indication of the controversial measures proposed by an energetic town council in a bid to rejuvenate the area. With very few people prepared to be optimistic about job prospects in the immediate future, town leaders realise they face an uphill task but have decided that only an interventionist policy can help the town to climb out of decline.

Enoch's unwanted legacy

A wide-ranging community aid programme is run by the borough council to ease Wolverhampton's triple social problems: high unemployment, inner urban decay and a large ethnic minority population.

A draft of the council's proposals for spending the £5 million-plus it expects to receive this year from the Government Inner Area Programme shows a plan for environmental improvements coupled with specific aid to community projects - especially those helping the young, the old and minority groups.

Blacks and Asians, according to council statistics, have suffered disproportionately worse than the indigenous population from the effects of unemployment and poor housing. The borough has more than 30,000 Asians - 15 per cent of all households in Wolverhampton. Unemployment in these groups is thought to be well in excess of 25 per cent, compared with the town average of 18.6 per cent.

Ever since Enoch Powell's infamous "rivers of blood" speech in the late 1960s, Wolverhampton has been labelled as a town with racial problems. Disturbances involving black youngsters in the wake of the 1981 Brixton riots did little to dispel that impression. But town leaders say the reputation is not deserved and that race relations are good.

Wolverhampton's aim has

been to help integration of the minorities, while not seeking to subvert their cultures. The main plank of this strategy has been work in the schools, ensuring that children can speak English and encouraging their parents to learn it. This has now turned full circle with children born in Wolverhampton of immigrant families being taught their mother tongue.

Special attention is paid to helping the minority community groups, especially those caring for jobless youngsters. The ethnic groups have been given financial assistance for religious buildings - a move which has caused anger among the white population. The Tory

'Spending a lot of money won't help'

minority group on the council has accused the controlling Labour group of spending too much on race relations.

Mr Bill Clarke, the Tory leader, said he supported Labour's aim of working for integration and improving race relations, but did not believe that simply spending a lot of money improved the racial atmosphere. The Tories are particularly critical of the appointment of further race relations workers, which they say is part of Labour's positive discrimination policy that works against integration.

But Sir George Young, under secretary at the Department of the Environment, has congratulated the council on its spending in the inner cities and help for the ethnic minorities. In the current financial year the Government gave £4.84 million to the inner area programme, where spending was shared with the area health authority and West Midlands County Council.

The council's inner area programme for the next year identifies 32 projects, costing £370,000, which will be of direct benefit to minority groups. Nineteen per cent of all the council's social sector projects and 38 per cent of voluntary projects are aimed at ethnic minorities. Most of the spending on these groups should be in the first two years of a five year rolling programme, the draft argues.

Council leaders say that with an estimated 12 per cent of housing in the borough unfit for human habitation there is an urgent need to maintain a large modernization programme on older houses. They claim they are prevented from spending what they believe is necessary by Government-imposed spending cuts.

This year a bid to spend almost £30 million was reduced by the Government to around £10 million. Mr Dennis Turner, deputy leader of the council and chairman of the economic development committee, said: "Some of the houses are downright primitive, and yet we are only allowed by the Government to spend one third of the total that we have identified we need in Wolverhampton."

The council builds virtually no new housing now, with the exception of a special programme for the elderly and young. There is a waiting list of around 6,000 for council housing, which reflects a reluctance by young people to share accommodation with their parents as they might have done a few years ago.

In the fast-lane towards prosperity

The completion of two roads, one an important link to the national motorway network, could hold the key to the prosperity of Wolverhampton and surrounding Black Country towns over the next decade.

A long-awaited Black Country route, which will speed traffic from the M6 into the heart of Wolverhampton, has been given Government priority, and preparatory work has started on the first section. The site of British Steel's former Bilston steelworks, is regarded as a vital component in the development of the 250-acre site.

The other main highway project is completion of the final section of the town's inner ring road, which planners hope will release valuable town centre land for commercial development and give the town a clear, safe, and boundary. The ring road project, which will be finished next year, has been the source of severe traffic problems over the past 20 years.

Wolverhampton's structure plan allows for future retail developments only within the boundary of the ring road. That policy was underpinned by the Government, recently when it refused an appeal by the owners of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club to develop a supermarket adjacent to the club's Molineux ground, just outside the ring road.

Completion of the ring will also allow the borough council to push ahead with plans to pedestrianize more of a town centre which already boasts two large traffic-free shopping areas - the Mander and Wulfrun centres. Borough planners see this as critical in the town's development as a regional shopping centre.

But it is the Black Country route, about five miles of dual carriageway costing around £40 million, which is likely to be of greater strategic importance. At the moment, the town's link with the M6 at Walsall is by a route that meanders through congested roads in Willenhall and the town's outskirts. A direct link will make the town more attractive to commuters and industry and will also give the Black Country site the communications needed by a major 250-acre development.

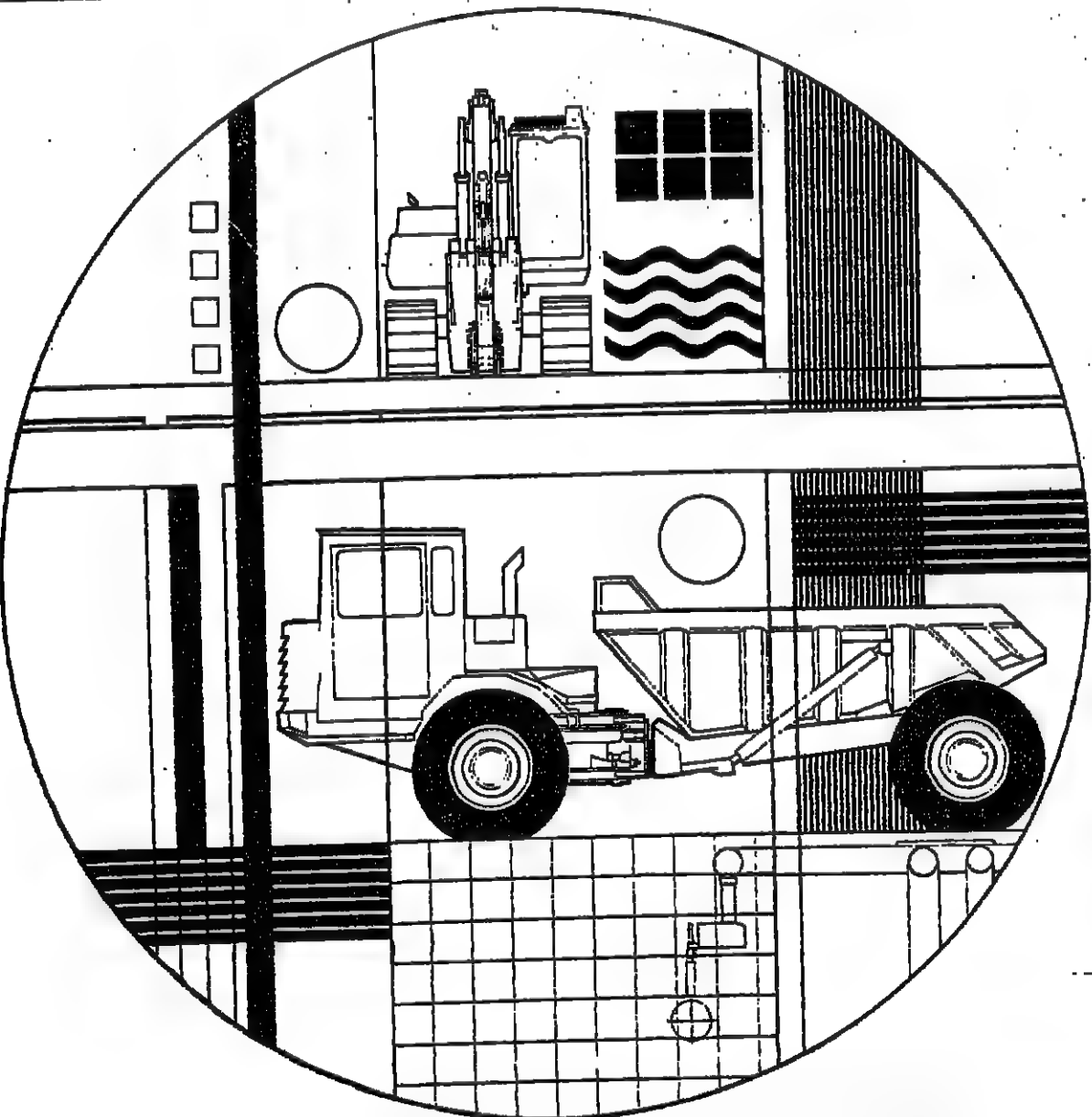
Controversy over opencast mining

Proposals for the site have been the subject of long negotiations and controversy as the council is totally opposed to a plan by the National Coal Board for opencast mining on the site. Supporters of the suggestion, including the council's Tory group, have argued that the four years' anticipated disruption caused by the mining would be well worthwhile in view of the NCB's commitment to leave the land in a suitable condition for immediate industrial development.

While the mining proposal could still go ahead, the odds are stacked heavily against it. Instead the council is backing proposals from the Tarmac construction group, which bought the site from BSC, for a mixed development of 60 per cent housing and 40 per cent for commercial, industrial and leisure projects. That meets the council's priorities of expanding the town's housing market and also helping to create employment through small business ventures.

Work on the housing is expected to start within the next year, and with the new road due for completion by 1990 the depressed town of Bilston could be given a new lease of life. The council expects the Black Country route to have a marked environmental impact on Bilston, whose centre will probably become a traffic-free shopping precinct. It is precisely because of the powerful environmental lobby in Bilston that opinion on the council went against the opencast plan.

Inclusion in the steel site development could be a wide range of leisure facilities: a marina and athletics stadium are being mooted and the council is discussing changes to its structure plan for the area to allow the development to go ahead as quickly as possible.

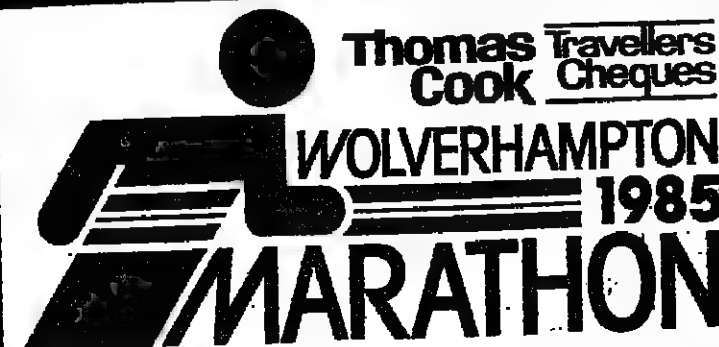


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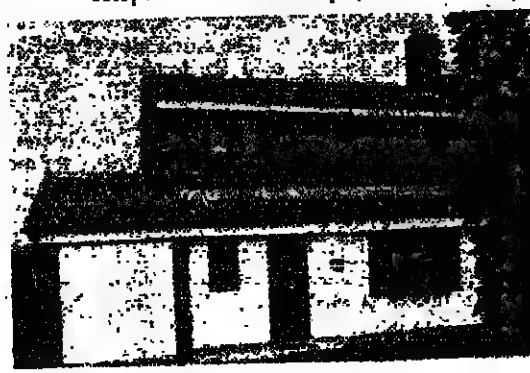


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Having fun the family way

Wolverhampton, in common with many towns ravaged by unemployment, places great importance on the provision of leisure and sports facilities to occupy the time of those in and out of work and has acknowledged the need to examine new ways of spending leisure time.

The town's leisure chiefs maintain that building sports centres and providing facilities for other participative activities is not sufficient, because not everyone is a sporting type. So they are looking at different ideas for spending spare time with the emphasis on family entertainment. The town is proud of its 750 acres of parkland and that will be the area for experiments.

But there is one traditional way of enjoying spare time over which the council has no control - watching Wolverhampton Wanderers football club. It is a pale shadow of the team that rode high in the 1950s and cast a welcome spotlight of publicity on the town. These days the publicity tends to chronicle poor performances on the field as Wolves languish near the bottom of the second division, and the boardroom intrigues as the club appears to lurch from one crisis to the next.

Home attendances hover around 7,000, compared with 65,000 for games when the Wolves, managed by Stan Cullis and led by Billy Wright, were the team everyone had to beat. The slide started in the early 1960s, and apart from two brief sparks in the 1970s the decline has continued. The team is now managed by the

while the council meets the running costs of the building. Wolverhampton's Civic Hall is the town's other major cultural attraction and the council stages a season of concerts each year from September to April with performances by symphony orchestras and military bands. It is also on the tour circuit for the major pop concerts.

The hall, opened in 1983 and known locally as the "Mander Folly" because it was regarded as a white elephant built by the council with the strong encouragement of the then chairman, has defied the doubters and now hosts a range of other activities, including boxing, wrestling and variety shows. With a capacity of 1,780, the Civic Hall and its sister Wulfrun Hall with 600 seats provide one of the biggest entertainment venues in the West Midlands.

The town's athletics stadium at Aldersley is the home of the renowned Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletic Club, which has been the base for such stars of track and field as javelin thrower Tessa Sanderson and runners Gary and Kathy Cook.

Metropolitan Borough of Wolverhampton

Population	255,400
Area	17,004 acres
No. of houses	54,245 private
	40,955 council
Total council budget	£200m
Commercial properties	18,302
Industrial properties	822
Ratiable value	£42,745,591
Av domestic r.v.	£218
Av cost of new 3-bed semi	£23,000

The stadium also doubles as a velodrome and is used by two leading cycling clubs. There are regular meetings at Wolverhampton racecourse, and speedway was recently reintroduced at the Monmore Stadium after a break of around five years.

Monmore also hosts greyhound racing and during the season there are two greyhound meetings and one speedway event each week. Both sports have a big following. Other major sporting attractions during the year are an annual cycle race around the town centre streets and a marathon which is hoped to attract 17,000 entrants

this year, an increase of 10,000 on last year.

The amount of parks and open spaces come as a surprise in a town with an image of grime and grit created by the surrounding heavy industry. Victorian West Park, in the town centre, is a fine example of a park planned at the turn of the century. It is at West Park, as well as elsewhere, that the council is conducting a study of future leisure needs. One suggestion is to turn the town centre showpiece park into a Victorian theme park.

There are already regular summer "event" days in the parks which provide family entertainment, and the council is hoping to extend these programmes, while examining the possibility of creating a miniature zoo in one of the parks and reintroducing band music.

The Central Art Gallery, which houses a fine collection of modern paintings, and the Bantock House Museum, with its collections of enamels and period dolls, are both popular and enjoy a high reputation in the region.

Back from the economic slump

The changing face of the town's industrial base is encapsulated in the fortunes of one of its oldest engineering companies which underwent a major change in direction to survive growing commercial pressures.

NEI Thompson, once one of the leading manufacturers of boilers and other equipment for power stations, has diversified into high technology machine tools, excavators and dumper trucks to survive the recession. After hitting a low point three years ago it is now bouncing back, increasing its workforce.

The company employs 1,500 in the Wolverhampton area, a far cry from the 9,000 employed by John Thompson in the mid-

which indicates a growing confidence that the reorganized business has survived the worst and can look to a more settled future. But Mike Humpish, the managing director, is adamant that the future will depend on the company's ability to continue evolving and becoming more efficient.

"All of what happened to our company implies a huge flexibility of the workforce and management team in adapting to the new climate and business, and the flexibility of the infrastructure of suppliers in the area on whom we depend a great deal," said Mr Humpish.

The company has arranged with the Komatsu company in Japan to manufacture under licence a second generation of robot welding equipment, while its own fiction welder is a world leader outside of Japan. The company holds 70 per cent of the market for concrete mixer trucks and sells tankers for transporting liquids in bulk by road.

NEI Thompson last year acquired Hymac, an excavator company, and has won a string of contracts with the Ministry of Defence for its hydraulic heavy dump trucks which have been used by the army in the Falklands and Northern Ireland. All of this business was relatively unknown territory for the company, although it still retains ties with power generation by making storage tanks for chlorine and hydrogen and water treatment machinery.

Mr Humpish said the search for new business, and hopefully the creation of more employment, will continue - in the fields in which the company now operates and possibly new ones. NEI Thompson's aim is also to improve the quality of its products, reduce its energy costs and make its suppliers more sensitive to the company's needs.

Looking forward to a settled future

1960s when it was boom time for the power station business and the motor industry to which it was an important supplier. But following that peak the business began to fall off as rationalization of the power generation industry and declining markets abroad combined with cutbacks in the motor industry to force a change of direction.

Thompson celebrated its 150th anniversary last year, but the company would probably have gone out of business in the 1970s had it not been for a series of mergers with other boiler-makers: first with the Tyneside firm of Clarke Chapman, and then in 1977 with Reynolds Parsons, another north-eastern company, to form the basis of the present Northern Engineering Industries group.

NEI Thompson has an annual turnover of more than £50 million and over the last three years has invested £5.6 million at Wolverhampton,



Work and play: Canal barges (top); the NEI Thompson Hymac excavator; West Park lake and Darlington Street Methodist Church dominating the town.

Theatre is a big aspect of town life

controversial Tommy Docherty and there is continuing uncertainty over the club's future with reports of several bids to buy out the present owners, a Manchester-based property company.

But if Wolverhampton was famous for its football team, it also has a very high reputation in the Midlands for its cultural facilities. The Grand Theatre, built in Victorian style, has been the source of comment and argument in the town for many years and has been rescued from closure, both threatened and actual, on several occasions.

The 90-year-old theatre was closed in 1978 because the organization that ran it for the council ran out of cash. Following selective refurbishment by the council, which decided that the theatre was an important aspect of town life and should be maintained, a £2 million renovation programme was launched and the theatre eventually reopened in October 1983.

But further cash problems loomed, despite an annual £110,000 grant from the borough council. After big deficits on seasons by the Moscow Ballet and Welsh National Opera, the West Midlands County Council provided £300,000 to clear the debts. It is accepted that the theatre, now receiving Arts Council support, cannot be viable although attempts are being made to ensure it covers the costs of its stage productions



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Wolverhampton's bid to gain city status would, if successful, crown a year of celebration being planned to mark the town's millennium.

The last application for city status was made in the late 1970s and although unsuccessful, Wolverhampton came close to winning Government recommendation.

Wolverhampton, the High Town on the hill, was first mentioned in 985 as Hecantune when King Aethelred granted lands to Lady Wulfruna; but the history of a community really starts nine years later when the Lady Wulfruna gave land for the establishment of a monastery. The town's name, derived from Wulfruna's High Town,

1,000 years of history

appeared in a charter in 1078 as Wulfrunhampton.

Henry III granted a charter in 1258 for the holding of a weekly wool market and the town prospered as a centre for the wool trade with the spin-off from a thriving clothing trade until the 16th century when wool industry moved to Yorkshire.

The next hundred years brought the start of the industrialization of Wolverhampton through lock making and later buckle manufacture.

that process continued apace after the construction of a revolutionary blast furnace at Bilston in 1756 by John Wilkinson, one of the great ironmasters. The industrial revolution put the town firmly on the map, thanks to a wealth of local coal and iron ore; and its central location and the 20th century brought the automotive industry to Wolverhampton.

Celebrations will reach their peak during a two-week period at the beginning of June and will include a special marathon and a large procession through the town on June 8.

The Campaign for Real Ale is holding a beer festival and special 1,000 year ale is being brewed by Mitchell & Butlers.



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 West Midlands County Council

THE TIMES DIARY

Warsaw connection

There will be no Earl of Annandale and Hartfell bidding for stardom when the Lords' proceedings are first televised today: the last one died nearly two centuries ago. Eight generations on, however, the earldom looks set to be revived by Scottish farmer Patrick Hope-Johnstone. The Lords' privileges committee will hear soon how the earldom looks set to be revived by Scottish farmer Patrick Hope-Johnstone. The Lords' privileges committee will hear soon how the earldom looks set to be revived by Scottish farmer Patrick Hope-Johnstone. The Lords' privileges committee will hear soon how the earldom looks set to be revived by Scottish farmer Patrick Hope-Johnstone.

Other woman

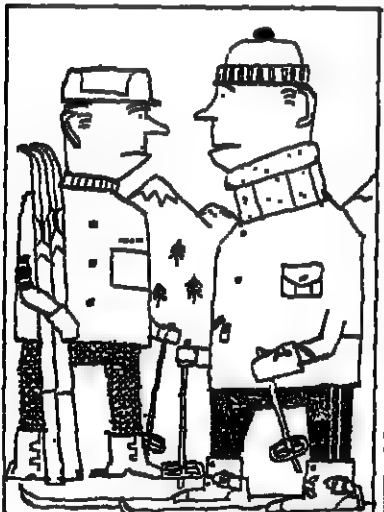
From Xanadu publishers this spring comes a book uncompromisingly entitled *Sex Scandals*. The author is eminently well-qualified to write on the subject. She is Christine Keeler, the woman at the centre of the 1963 Profumo scandal. Miss Keeler will say the publishers, take a "very and informed look at other scandals... that have made the headlines", with "astounding comments on the hypocrisy that emerges on these occasions and on society's periodic need for scapegoats".

One book surely destined to cross the Atlantic is Florida schoolteacher Jim Mattson's collection of classroom "bloopers". Examples: "Socrates died from an overdose of wisdom", "Eugene O'Neill won the Pulitzer prize", and "A Virgin forest is a place where the hand of man is never set foot".

In-fighting

Last week I reported Peter Tatchell's failure to be re-elected to Bermondsey Labour Party's general committee by his ward - meaning he would have to step down as party secretary. Tatchell has now been selected as a delegate by the Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society instead. Unfortunately he has in the meantime nominated one Linda Oram to succeed him as secretary. He must now fight his own nominee at the AGM next month for the post he has held since 1980.

BARRY FANTONI



Company policy

Irene McGibbon, left-bashing leader of the miners' wives' back-to-work campaign, claims her phone never stopped ringing when NUM and the National Coal Board began talking again on Monday. It was an NUM "play" to stem the drift back to work, she says, and claims many calls from striking miners who wanted to return but could see no point if a settlement was imminent. Most of the calls, however, came from working miners or their wives who did not want to see an early settlement: the longer the drift back continues, the more "scabs" there will be, and the easier post-strike life will prove. They presumably shared Mrs McGibbon's feelings when Michael Eaton announced that night that the talks had come to nothing. "I could have hugged him", she says.

Spice of life

Lord Wolfenden, who died last week, seems to have been something of a joker. In the 1935 *Who's Who* he listed hockey as his recreation - but subsequently changed it 32 times. In 1947 it was "Reading *Who's Who*". Selected entries since then read: 1953, Hop Ching Cheques; 1954, Learning; 1958, Patience; 1963, Heuristics; 1964, Elevators; 1965, London squares; 1966, Innocent; 1968, Chelsea; 1970, Words; 1971, Walking about; 1972, Recreating country cottages; 1974, mares-tail; 1975, getting used to retirement; 1976, grandchildren; 1978, Wedding; 1979, picking up new words; 1980, waiting to cross the A25 on foot; 1982, trying to keep up; 1983, trying to come to terms with arthritis, bifocals and dentures. His last entry in 1984 was, appropriately, "Trying to remember".

PHS

The peace-mongers: John Barry charts Russia's road back to Geneva

Gromyko's grand design

There was a moment in the Geneva talks earlier this month when, as one of the participants put it later, "we all realized we were looking at history".

US Secretary of State George Shultz had broached American doubts about Soviet compliance with existing arms-control treaties. The Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, brushed his words aside. "The United States has been resorting to this argument ever since questions of disarmament began to be discussed after the Second World War..." he is recalled as saying. He was speaking from personal experience, having been at the top all those years.

Gromyko at 75 is at the height of his power, and apparently as fit as ever. Yet he must surely assume that the forthcoming talks will be the last - for him and his generation of Soviet leaders.

Gromyko is the last active survivor of that extraordinary cadre of Soviet policy-makers who took top jobs as young men when their seniors were swept away by Stalin's purges. He arrived in Washington as ambassador in 1939; by 1943, aged 34, he was ambassador.

He was at the great conferences - Yalta, Potsdam - which carved up the postwar world, present when Truman told Stalin that America had perfected a new weapon of enormous power, without realizing that Stalin's scientists shared the same atomic secret. It is as if John Foster Dulles were still US Secretary of State, or Ernest Bevin the British Foreign Secretary.

His status derives from his unmatched knowledge of defence and foreign affairs. The death of defence minister Dimitri Ustinov just before Christmas removed from the Politburo the last person who could challenge Gromyko on the basis of experience. It is surely significant that Ustinov's chosen successor, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, is not even a candidate member of the Politburo.

This must surely give Gromyko a particularly strong among his contemporaries. By the end of Reagan's second term the present Russian leaders will almost certainly have gone, replaced by younger men already on the Politburo such as Mikhail Gorbachev and Grigory Romanov. So if President Chernomir and his contemporaries want to bequeath the legacy of a stable relationship between the superpowers - and the Americans under Reagan have made it clear that a new strategic balance is part of their price for that - then Gromyko is the only man who can achieve it for them.

This is not to say that Gromyko has unchallenged power. Moscow was at pains to publicize that its preparations and positions for Geneva were unanimously approved by the Politburo. But Gromyko has emerged the victor in some important recent shifts of policy and policy management.

American Kremlinologists such as Professor Jeffrey M. Ross, who has been baffled and outraged by President Reagan's hard line in his first term, groups within the Soviet leadership considered abandoning the customary Soviet concern for its relations with the United States.

One option, apparently espoused by some of the military, was simply to accept Reagan's challenge and pile up more weaponry. The Soviet Union could afford this only at the cost of destroying many other programmes in its forward planning.

Upheavals within the military culminating in the downgrading of Ustinov's successor - show that this argument has been lost.

Another option was to concentrate on Europe and Japan and try to construct a framework of relations with America's allies - excluding America. In his short tenure at the top Yuri Andropov seemed at least to have toyed with that idea and may even have decided to pursue it.

By career and conviction, Gromyko is a believer in the centrality of the American relationship. Under Andropov his status subtly but surely declined. So did his hold over the bureaucracy of foreign policy. Brezhnev, in his years as general secretary, had accumulated within the Central Committee Secretariat a cadre of foreign policy

Over the past week many of the clouds that obscured the \$1 billion dispute between Laker and British Airways have rolled away. Last Friday the Laker liquidator, Mr Christopher Morris of Touche Ross, came out of a month-long purdah to reveal that although BA has yet to make a formal offer, negotiations between the airline and its major creditors are well under way, and that with any luck a settlement could be reached within a month.

In a major U-turn, British Airways now makes no secret of its urgent desire to bring the whole protracted and expensive business to a speedy conclusion. Where once the Laker claim was dismissed as a footnote to the accounts as a minor matter and "wholly without foundation", it is now seen as the biggest single obstacle to privatization.

The law suit was launched in November 1982 - nine months after the sensational collapse of Laker Airways - when Morris announced his intention to sue British Airways and others in the American courts for an alleged conspiracy to bring down Laker. Morris's objective was simple enough: to recover enough money in damages to repay the creditors.

BA, aided by the British government, fought stubbornly to block the action, but as the evidence accumulated it has become increasingly obvious that only a settlement offered a quick solution.

Three factors have led to BA's volte-face. The first was the opinion of its American legal advisors, Paul Weiss, Rifkind and Garrison, that success in the forthcoming civil action by Christopher Morris in the US was by no means a foregone conclusion. Secondly, the City institutions whose support is vital to



specialists who operated, particularly in Western Europe, outside Gromyko's control. Andropov, as longtime head of the KGB, had his own resources and analysts too.

Chernomir's succession - more precisely, his recovery from illness last summer and his successful efforts after that to consolidate his power - brought about Gromyko's revival. Chernomir too believed that the superpower relationship must be at the heart of Moscow's policy. And Gromyko could point to debacles such as Russia's failure to influence the West German elections in 1983 - masterminded by the whizzkids of the secretariat - as evidence that the management of foreign policy was best left to him.

Last October Gromyko's 75th birthday was celebrated in Moscow with unprecedented fanfare. Politically, nobody pointed out that the celebrations were an unaccountable three months late. It had taken a struggle, but Gromyko was back.

The strategy Gromyko is following in the new talks with Washington derives from a study group set up early last year to review Soviet arms control policies. In November 1983 the Soviets had walked out of the Euromissile talks in Geneva; a fortnight later they had adjourned the strategic missile talks (Start) without setting a date for their resumption. In effect, the study group was asked what next?

It is unclear what Moscow had hoped to achieve by either action. One view among Sovietologists is that the Soviets had just painted themselves into a corner on the Euromissile issue, saw too late that they should have clutched the "walk in the woods" compromise, and

walked out for no better reason than that they had to carry out their threat to do so when the first Nato missiles arrived. The other view is that the Soviets hoped to provoke such nervousness in Western Europe that the Bonn government in particular would be forced to postpone further missile deployment.

Either way, it was clear by early 1984 that the walkout had been a disaster. Nato deployments were already going ahead. The Soviet Union was being blamed for intransigence. And the European peace movement, on whose efforts the Soviets had placed some reliance, were fading away. How could America be blamed if it was Russia that had stopped talking?

According to what sources in Washington are at pains to call "informed guesses", the study group was headed by Gromyko's senior deputy foreign minister, Georgi Kornienko who, significantly, accompanied Gromyko to Geneva earlier this month.

The group apparently included representatives from that section of the Central Committee Secretariat which handles arms control negotiating policy: the foreign ministry; the general staff; and the KGB. Specific names suggested include: Vadim Zagladin and Leonid Zamiatin (secretariat); Marshal Sergei Akhromyev and General Nikolai Chervov (general staff) plus foreign policy experts such as Valentin Falin, the former ambassador to West Germany.

By late spring this group had produced a report on the failure of the walk-out strategy and a plan for a new approach. The report apparently went to the Politburo and

was approved, according to West German sources, in late April/early May last year.

Piecing together subsequent events, American sources suggest the plan was as follows:

● Return to negotiations with the United States. So long as the Soviet Union is perceived as the intransigent party, other channels of political action are blocked.

● Save face by insisting that any talks must be "new". This means finding a new agenda.

● Drop as unattainable the precondition that Nato scrap or even halt its Euromissile deployments (though do not abandon the removal of those missiles as a negotiating goal).

● To replace Pershing and cruise missiles as the "American threat to world peace", to provide a fresh agenda and to give fresh fuel to the "peace" movements, begin an international campaign against American armaments and anti-missile programmes.

● Seize the political initiative by calling for urgent talks to save the world from these new threats. Hope that the United States refuses.

● Do nothing to aid Reagan's re-election chances. Be prepared to move swiftly in the aftermath of his victory, on the assumption that all American politicians want to end their careers as "men of peace".

If that was the plan, it is working well. Now the tough part starts: the negotiations.

At the time this statement of concern for the poor could be plausibly related to the distinctive threat of paternalism woven into a long Tory tradition. Thus Churchill introduced the forerunner of the present wages councils which established minimum standards of pay and conditions with the observation that "decent conditions make for industrial efficiency and increase rather than decrease competitive power".

Macmillan defended the Fair Wages Resolution which obliged contractors to the public sector to match that sector's employment conditions as "the protector certainly of the standard of living of the workers but also of the standards of competence and honour of industry as a whole".

What lends these quotations their sharp pungency is the remorseless assault on both measures by the current Tory government, which has ripped out the thread of paternalism from the fabric of its party.

The Fair Wages Resolution disappeared at the end of 1982 with immediate and dramatic effects. The Contract Cleaning and Maintenance Association reported recently that real wages in the field have fallen by one-fifth since its abolition. This year it is the turn of the wages councils to follow into the history books. They would have vanished sooner but for the discovery that their abolition requires the revocation by Britain of an International Labour Organization convention.

Nothing daunted, the Government has served notice of its intention to do so and plans are now a hand for the extinction of the councils in July, the earliest possible date.

The wages councils in this twilight year of their existence still provide minimal protection for almost three million of the most vulnerable workers in low-paid industries. It is difficult to believe that anyone could regard the rates they set as excessive, since the current top earnings of

creditors lent more than \$400 million to finance Sir Freddie's purchase of the Airbus and the DC-10s and as they bore the brunt of the collapse in February, 1982, their agreement is vital to any settlement. It is on this small but influential group that BA is concentrating all its attention.

There is no problem with the 19,000 small creditors, mainly ticket-holders, who are owed less than £50,000 apiece and will be repaid in full.

Talks with the big creditors, however, are still apparently in an early stage and each party is watching the others closely to ensure that nobody steals a march. Only when these negotiations are close to a conclusion will Morris be brought in as a referee.

At present BA is talking about £50 to £60 million as the price of an overall settlement - well short of the £290 million or so needed to pay the creditors in full, so there is plenty of scope for argument. It is also uncertain whether the other nine airline co-defendants, including British Caledonia, Pan Am and TWA, share the British airline's sense of urgency. All the evidence indicates that it was BA which took the initiative, and that having got the ball rolling it then sought to persuade its rivals to chip in. As one important airline told *The Times* last week: "British Airways have tried to suggest that this is a co-ordinated effort but in fact they have acted unilaterally: we were neither informed nor consulted."

Even if there is a settlement, then, the chances are that it will be British Airways, the airline with most at stake, that picks up most of the tab.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone: 01-837 1234

STILL BIG SPENDING

From yesterday's White Paper we learn quite plainly that the Government has failed to cut public expenditure. In the doubtful event that it succeeds in hitting its next three annual targets, the state will still, at the end of this Parliament, be absorbing the same share of national income as it did in Mrs Thatcher's first year of office. And this, in turn, is a significantly larger share than the Labour Government absorbed in 1977-78.

Even against the narrower measure of its specific promises, the Government stands condemned to failure. Its aim - not easy to make politically plain - has been to hold public spending constant in "real terms", that is, rising no faster than inflation. Yet the real cost of public expenditure has risen every single year since 1979: by the current financial year the cumulative increase was nearly 10 per cent.

Mr Peter Rees, the Chief Secretary, defends his Government by pointing out that spending previously rose even faster. But this yearly increase provides precious little reason for confidence that the Government will now succeed in inching down the real burden of spending. For we are now, as the Chancellor likes to remind us, in the fourth year of an economic recovery - the economic phase in which it should be easiest to control spending. Admittedly, this year's overspending (which the Government may still be underestimating) has been boosted by the miners' strike, a special excuse which would be more convincing if it did not follow years of continuous increase.

There are perhaps two reasons for hoping the Government's performance will improve. The first is that gradual extension of its control over local government spending, where the gap between naive hopes and actual results has been widest. The second is that, since 1982, the Government's year-by-year plans have proved a little more realistic. Compared with its plans laid down in its first medium-term strategy in 1980, all of which have been widely exceeded, the cash plans laid since 1982 have been more or less adhered to - with the exception of this year.

But that is a danger signal for the future. For this year's spending is over-running not only because of the miners' strike, but also because of underlying cost pressures which have taken a turn for the worse. During the past three years, the

Government has been agreeably surprised by the out-turn for inflation, a factor which has helped to ease public-sector budgets. With the pound so low, the Government's short-term inflation forecasts are coming under new pressure while its efforts to get back on track imply a squeeze next year which will be hard to achieve.

The Government's favourite tools for forcing the figures into the plans provided have been to put clamps on labour costs and price-tickets on public-sector assets. It is still depending on the same techniques: the latest White Paper increases the Government's yearly targets for proceeds from privatization. These targets are not unrealistic, while substantial contingency reserves may suffice to absorb some slippage on costs.

But they will only prove adequate if the Government is able to meet its policy targets for individual programmes; and the weakness of this White Paper is that the hard decisions these imply are still stated with insufficient determination. There is still too much effort to placate individual spending lobbies with soothing platitudes that their programmes will be kept "under review". One has, for example, to dig pretty deep to discover the plans imply a real cut in defence expenditure in the last years of this Parliament.

It is precisely this method of tossing figures into publication, and hoping they can be made to stick, that has entangled the Government in so many last-minute battles on spending. There is a little more evidence that major changes are being considered, if not set in political concrete, in this White Paper, which is noticeably clearer than its predecessors. There is still not enough.

And yet the need is even more urgent. For the most disturbing figures appear right outside the planning total on which the Government likes to argue its case for gradual improvement in expenditure control. This White Paper shows that the Treasury expects the bill for servicing the Government's debt to be £12 billion higher in 1985-86, and £2 billion higher in 1986-87, than it was forecasting last year. That is not included in the "planned" total on the grounds that there is precious little the Government can do about it. But the bill still has to be met out of tax revenue, unless the rest of public spending is cut to fit; which means - failing some taxation windfall - out of Mr Nigel Lawson's scope for tax cuts.

THE BROTHERS ASSAD

The eighth congress of the Syrian Baath Party, which ended on Sunday night after meeting for an unexpectedly long 16 days, apparently seals the outcome of the obscure power struggle which shook Syria last spring, as a direct consequence of the illness of President Hafez al-Assad the previous autumn.

That illness raised the question of the succession in the minds of many, and not least in that of the President's brother Rifaat, commander of the paramilitary "Defence Brigades", of sinister but powerful reputation. At the end of February, just as Syrian strategy was triumphing in Lebanon with the departure of the "multinational force" and the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, Rifaat attempted something like a coup d'état in Damascus, not directly against his brother but against others in the regime particularly of whom he knew would not easily acquiesce in his succession.

It failed because the President, who had evidently made a fuller recovery than many had bargained for, did not take kindly to this premature Prince-Hal-like flexing of muscles. He firmly reasserted his authority, and the tanks that had appeared in the streets returned to barracks. At the same time, however, he named three vice-presidents of whom his brother was one. His name appeared second on the list. After that of Mr Abdul-Halim Khaddam, the former foreign minister, but the significance of this order was deliberately blurred. Hardly anyone knew for sure whether Rifaat had won or lost. For some weeks uncertainty continued, with visible tension between his supporters and those of the army commanders.

The next act in this curious drama came at the end of May, when Rifaat was sent on a special mission to Moscow, accompanied by two of his leading military opponents. The purpose of this mission was never disclosed, but when it returned to Damascus Rifaat was no longer with it. He repaired instead to his luxurious property outside Geneva, and

for the next six months divided his time between there and Paris. In September the defence minister, General Mustafa Tlas, publicly confirmed what many had suspected: that Rifaat had in fact been exiled by his brother. "He is for us *persona non grata* for ever", the general told *Der Spiegel*. "Whoever says no to President Assad will be shorter by a head." Whereupon a spokesman for Rifaat retorted that the latter was still Vice-President and "will soon return to Syria and take up his national responsibilities at the side of the President". The mystery remained unresolved.

Act Three: at the end of November President Mitterrand visited Syria. Rifaat returned on the same day, and was seen at the banquet in Mitterrand's honour. His return was not publicized in the Syrian media, but was reportedly saluted by some of his supporters who fired their rifles in the air. According to semi-official Syrian sources, however, there were "only a dozen private soldiers", half of whom have since been dismissed from the army while the other half were arrested "for shooting without a licence". The same sources say that Rifaat had in fact been summoned back to Damascus by his brother after rumours that he was about to launch a newspaper or magazine in Paris and even an announcement on the widely-heard Arabic service of Radio Monte Carlo that he would speak "seriously, openly and freely" on the air.

Rifaat has kept quiet since his return to Syria, and now has been re-elected to the 90-member Central Committee of the party - but not, it seems, to the much more important 21-member Regional Command (so-called because in Baathist doctrine Syria is only a region of the greater Arab nation). Next month Hafez al-Assad will formally relinquish the presidency in order to run as the party's candidate for another seven-year mandate in March. His re-election is, of course, a mere formality. The same is certainly not true of the reappointment of one or more of his vice-presidents.

Cutting funds for 'big' science

From Professor D. C. Colley

Sir, You have briefly reported (January 11) my resignation from the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), on which I served as chairman of its nuclear physics board. The specific reason for my resignation was what I consider to be unacceptable treatment of the nuclear physics board in the distribution of the additional £11 million recently provided by Sir Keith Joseph for the science vote.

During the last decade there has been within SERC a substantial transfer of funds from "big" science - i.e. nuclear physics, astronomy and space research - to "other" science and engineering. Since 1975 the share of SERC's funds taken by the "big" sciences has fallen from 60 per cent to 40 per cent. Most of the reduction has been in money for nuclear physics, which has suffered to a degree that activities in this subject are now being seriously curtailed at a time when scientific opportunities are available to the UK community.

In spite of this drastic reduction there is continued pressure within SERC for further cuts. This pressure stems from the view strongly advocated within the council that preference should be given to projects of directly perceived utility, apparently in the belief that this will save the UK economically.

While I fully support the need for projects of this kind I do not believe

that they should be given such priority over pure research, typified by "big" science, that the future of whole disciplines is placed in jeopardy, as is now happening. Pure scientific research has an excellent record of generating applications and leading to the creation of wealth, often in ways that were quite impossible to predict. It also merits support because of its intrinsic educational and intellectual value.

SERC is the only realistic source of funds for this type of research. Its resources, half of which already go to applied activities, amount to only 6 per cent of the Government's total expenditure on research and development. Further transfers can thus be expected to make at most a marginal impact to the overall applied R and D effort in the UK.

It is my belief that the extra funds needed to finance increased applied research should come primarily from bodies most likely to derive direct benefit, such as Government departments and industry. Current policies, if continued, will very soon destroy this country's standing as a scientific power. Scientists, both pure and applied, should unite in a concerted effort to prevent this happening.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. COLLEY,
The University of Birmingham,
Department of Physics,
PO Box 363,
Birmingham,
January 15.

Assessing the competence to teach

From Mr Max Morris

Sir, Professor Honey's argument on teacher incompetence (January 16) is as flawed as his statistics are bizarre. It will take more than 100 years to purge the service of the hard core of real shockers, some 6,000, it is alleged. Our serving teachers would be very incompetent indeed by 2085 and will have sacked themselves into the grave.

Having correctly admitted that "the main problem is the system by which teachers are certified fit to enter the profession", Honey immediately proceeds to disclaim main responsibility for his argument to his colleagues in higher education - rather a glaring contradiction.

All experience shows that really incompetent teachers begin incompetent - they do not have it thrust upon them by schools. They are badly trained and should never have been certificated. Those who train them often lack the necessary experience to know, except theoretically, what the qualities of a good class teacher are.

A report in *The Times Educational Supplement*, January 11, of research by the University of Lancaster, which looked at 777 staff in 17 teacher-training institutions, found that very few teacher trainers - in some places not one - have any recent teaching experience. Of college teaching staff 82 per cent had experience only of teaching in secondary schools; on the BED infant course 69 per cent had no

infant teaching experience and half of those on junior courses had never taught in a junior school.

This is the nub of the problem. Over the years, it is true, some teachers will deteriorate in quality without inservice training, which has been neglected. And for those who become incompetent there has for some years been the expedient of early retirement with pension compensation. But such teachers are not Honey's "shockers". These are due to his own faulty certification.

Instead of sniping at the hard-pressed teaching profession and their unions, he should be leading a crusade to reform, indeed revolutionise his own sector, which is where the trouble starts. Just imagine any other profession training its future members in this way!

Yours etc,
MAX MORRIS,
44 Colindale Road, N8,
January 16.

From the Headmaster of Cheltenham College

Sir, The appraisal system has been in operation at Cheltenham College for the last three years. Common Room refer to it as the MOT.

Masters agree that performance is improving. Yours faithfully,
R. MORGAN, Headmaster,
Cheltenham College,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
January 17.

Broadcasting's future

From Mr Derek Bloom

Sir, The proposals made in your leader of January 16 would take a very long time indeed to develop, agree and implement, but the financial problem is minor. One relatively rapid answer would be to pool the income of ITV and the BBC, so that both were sustained by licence fees and by advertising revenue, without the difficult innovation of commercials in BBC programmes.

Assuming a small rise in the fee and the abolition of the Treasury levy, there would be sufficient funds for both systems to afford quality programming, to persons and minority interest. It cannot be beyond the wit of man to devise an acceptable and workable formula.

Proposals which would require the BBC to broadcast commercials take little account of the elasticity of demand for advertising airtime. At the extreme, if BBC1 and BBC2 went over to a fully commercial operation, so that the amount of airtime on offer approximately doubled, the advertising revenue attracted to television would not double.

It might rise by 40 per cent to 50 per cent and the BBC's share would be diminished by the considerable cost of setting up and running its own marketing and sales organisation. A lesser increase in airtime would make for a smaller gain in advertising revenue without reducing the sales cost.

Your leader writer approached the issue in a radical and objective spirit, but it might be worth considering the potential effect on the advertising revenues of other media - not excluding *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
D. BLOOM,
47 Old Church Street, Chelsea, SW3.

NUJ election

From Mr T. Sales

Sir, May I write in support of the letter from the NUJ chapel (January 12) about the prominent position in your paper in which you allow Mr Bernard Levin to air his views.

I know nothing about the NUJ elections, but I remember how Mr Levin has in the past been granted space, for example, to complain about gas supplies to his mother's house and to advertise for a secretary. In the context of his articles about Vietnam or the USSR, these personal problems are quite out of place.

Surely, if Mr Levin wishes to exert his influence in any of his own affairs, he should do so by advertising in your personal columns and pay the appropriate fee as the rest of us have to. Yours faithfully,
TOM SALES,
6 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11,
January 12.

Time to draw stumps

From Mr R. Miles

Sir, At the beginning of the last world war, iron railings were removed from public buildings and squares in London and the rest of the country. As a very few have been replaced, the rest will remain today outside many great buildings and squares.

The row of rusting stumps outside the Royal Geographical Society, opposite Kensington Gardens, where the railings were crudely broken off, are a particularly sad example.

Would it not be a good idea if Mrs Thatcher's Government gave a tax exemption to all persons and companies who replaced their railings in a pre-war manner? This would not only improve our environment but create employment.

I remain yours truly,
ROY MILES,
3 Trevor Square, SW7.

Youthful reflections

From Mr Edward Hubbard

Sir, In referring to the copy of J. H. Foley's "Youth at the Barricade" at Stratford-upon-Avon, Miss Patricia McFarland (January 12) refers to it as being dated 1844. This, and not 1851, was the year in which a version of this important piece of Victorian sculpture was exhibited at Westminster Hall.

The 1851 showing of Hatfield's bronze cast was at the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, as part of the Great Exhibition.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD HUBBARD,
88 Osmeaton Road, Preston,
Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Famine in Ethiopia

From the Director General of The Save the Children Fund

Sir, Mr Chedoke's letter takes as the basis for his letter (January 12) a statement from an earlier article in *The Times* (January 3) on developments in the Sahel that "the central problem is over-population following the advent of modern medicine". In fact the relationship between modern medicine and population growth is very uncertain.

Medical advances such as the elimination of smallpox have had an effect on population growth but in countries like Burkina Faso and Ethiopia, where the average inhabitant has little or no access to health care services worth the name, modern medicine cannot be its root cause.

Population growth clearly compounds the problem of food shortages. If there were fewer people the food would go further. However, to look at it as the cause of the problem is a mistake. Over-population must, by definition, mean over-population in relation to

Long-term look at countryside

From the President of the Country Landowners Association

Sir, The letter from the chairman of the two countryside conservancy Councils of the Nature Conservancy Council (January 10) is much to be welcomed. The matters raised need the most careful consideration. They are, however, as the chairman recognises, massive in their scope.

The changes that Government departments, as at present constituted, would find time to produce a comprehensive strategy for the countryside between now and the next general election must be questionable. The chances that the Government collectively would approve that strategy and publish it in the period leading up to the election are perhaps even more doubtful.

In the long run the problems of the countryside would be dealt with more easily if the responsibilities of departments were changed so that many more of the whole range of questions that have, perforce, to be looked at together fell within the competence of one minister instead of being scattered throughout Whitehall now.

The next most suitable alternative, if only the Government could overcome its distaste for it, might be to set up a committee of inquiry. The Scott report on land utilisation in rural areas was published in 1942. Once roughly every half-century hardly seems too often for a major independent review.

In the meantime, it is surely for every organisation concerned with the countryside to work out its own views on how the future of our rural areas can best be assured. The Country Landowners Association is doing just that. The Ministry of Agriculture for its part should be clarifying its policies for British farming.

Strategic defence

From Mr Richard Worcester

Sir, General Abrahamsen, head of the Strategic Defence Initiative, and others make the point that the main purpose of the SSF is to protect ICBM intercontinental ballistic missile boosters; but the primary aim must surely be to upset the other side's fighting mirrors. It is not necessary to hit the 1,400 boosters and a much easier task is to point the beams at 150 or so vulnerable platforms. Then it is possible to say "we now can destroy you and you cannot hurt us".

It is a contest won by the first nation that can pose this checkmate. And when nations say that they are for or against "star wars" it means nothing, as this frantic race has been under way five years. The USSR has at least 15,000 people working on it, plus huge space station costs so the Reagan call last year and the \$25.5 billion for the next five years is a belated US response.

The USSR is outpacing the US by a wide margin though they need a long lead to offset their lag in multi-processor computing sciences. If the USSR were to win this race we

to sum up, those most directly involved have to decide what measures are necessary in the already foreseeable future and second, there should be a much longer-term examination, either as a necessary consequence of changes in the machinery of Government or by an independent body, of what should happen in rural Britain in the years that stretch ahead.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GIFFARD, President,
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1,
January 14.

From the President of the Council for British Archaeology

Sir, I hope that in considering the future of the British countryside it will be remembered that it also has a past. The present countryside is the creation of past generations of farmers who have left behind their indelible if often fragile remains.

Agricultural policy has a direct effect on the survival rate of these remains. For instance, the recent changes in EEC milk quotas is likely to bring more upland and lowland pasture land under cultivation. It is in precisely those areas that the survival rate of archaeological sites is often highest.

Archaeologists have no wish to see the British countryside turned into an open-air museum. It is, after all, the history of the changing British landscape which is one of the most fascinating aspects of current research. However, archaeologists are anxious to see that at last a sample of our common past is preserved.

Yours faithfully,
T. G. HASSALL, President,
Council for British Archaeology,
112 Kensington Road, SE11,
January 21.

would be faced inextricably with the choice - surrender or lose the mirrors.

The sufferers would not be - or should not be - mankind but rather the loser's ideology. This therefore is perhaps a make-or-break race that the USSR and the West each most desperately has to win. It's a whole new situation as the second strike deterrence concept would be no longer feasible. The loser has lost everything, at the speed of light - the power to strike and the means to defend himself.

MAD (mutual assured destruction) should hold the status quo until damage denial is declared in its place. In this concept the winner can win and the loser can lose without the torture of destruction. As in Grand Master chess when, half way through the moves, both parties have fathomed out the inevitable verdict and later episodes are conceded. It could not end conflict in the world but the winner would be left to supervise removal of every vestige of the global nuclear threat.

Yours truly,
RICHARD WORCESTER,
Sussex House, Parkside,
Wimbledon, SW19.

view that a strong case had been made out for an association between smoking and the recent increased incidence of cancer of the lung and did not subscribe to the contrary view expressed by the tobacco manufacturers.

Those views were accepted by the tobacco manufacturers and the donation made and accepted on that understanding. Yours faithfully,
B. C. DODD, Head of Secretariat,
Medical Research Council,
20 Park Crescent, W1.

From Dr John Penman
Sir, Mr M. Ellis (January 17) quotes a volume published in the 1860s as stating that cancer occurs "in those who habitually smoke from a short pipe". This almost certainly refers to a short clay pipe, which was known to cause cancer of the lip.

Lung cancer, on the other hand, was still stated by eminent pathologists in the 1940s to have no known cause.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PENMAN,
Forest View, Upper Chute,
Andover, Hampshire.

Police and miners

From the General Secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties

Sir, There is an implication in your *Diary* (January 16) that NCCL's independent inquiry into policing of the miners' dispute modified its report in response to outside pressures. This is not true and never will be true. The inquiry is a key part in a coherent strategy for a firmly principled civil liberties analysis of contemporary civil issues.

The political signposts pointing the way towards a non-partisan perspective on civil liberties are

clear and exciting. The newly established All-party Parliamentary Civil Liberties Group (Geoffrey Rippon, QC, chairman; Alf Dubs and Alan Beith, vice-chairmen; Matthew Parris, secretary) is the surest possible parliamentary assent to the ideal to which NCCL aspires.

There is a new coalition of political interests for civil liberties in this country which will be nurtured and strongly defended. Yours faithfully,
LARRY GOSTIN,
General Secretary,
National Council for Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1.

happen is regular access to basic immunisation and health care services. In Ethiopia there are few roads and therefore little contact between the rural population and the slender health services that exist. Immunisation coverage in the Highlands only reaches a few per cent of all eligible children. For the same reason there is no possibility at the present time of providing family planning services, which require regular contact between service and customer.

The logical stages for the long-term development of Ethiopia are first to develop the agriculture and infra-structure; secondly to develop health care services and thirdly to develop family planning services. Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
Director General,
The Save the Children Fund,
Mary Datchelor House,
17 Grove Lane,
Camberwell, SE5,
January 15.

Underprivileged
From Mrs Phyllida Gardner.
Sir, This year is International Youth Year. We have had the Year of the Child (1979). It is nothing is yet designated for 1986 (and who, by the way, does the designating?), could it be the Year of the Middle Aged - a much neglected group at all times. Yours faithfully,
PHYLLIDA GARDNER (middle-aged),
Silver Birches, Willington,
Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire.



ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 23 1901

Queen Victoria died at Osborne House, Cowes, Isle of Wight, on January 22, 1901. She was 82 years of age and had reigned since June 20, 1837. Relations between *The Times* and the Queen had, over the greater part of her reign, been abstruse, but on her death *Princess House* rose royally to the sombre occasion. The following day a 30-page paper appeared marked with thick, funeral column rules. It included a report from Cowes (in rather purple prose) by a stringer - J. E. Vincent, a three column leader and an obituary of over 60,000 words written by T. H. (later Sir Thomas) Ward and Brinsley Richards.

DEATH OF THE QUEEN

It is with the most profound sorrow that we record the death of our much loved Queen.

Throughout yesterday the blow that has overwhelmed in grief the people of the British Empire was awaited with universal and almost breathless fear, which grew more tense and poignant as successive bulletins revealed its imminence. At 7 o'clock suspense was ended by the following message from the Prince of Wales to the Lord Mayor, which was instantly made public -

"The Prince of Wales to Lord Mayor."

"My beloved mother, the Queen, has just passed away surrounded by her children and grandchildren."

"ALBERT EDWARD"

Immediately afterwards arrived the final message, couched in much the same words -

"Osborne House, Jan 22, 6.45 p.m."

"Her Majesty the Queen breathed her last at 6.30 p.m., surrounded by her children and grandchildren."

"JAMES REID, M.D.,
R. DOUGLAS POWELL, M.D.,
THOMAS BARLOW, M.D."

THE LAST HOURS AT OSBORNE

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

ALL day long the Angel of Death has been hovering over Osborne House. One could almost hear the beating of his wings, but at half-past 6 those wings were folded, and the Queen was at rest. To those who knew her Majesty best, and most closely, as some of them have told me, the whole event seems incredible and unreal. To all of them the life of the Queen has seemed a part of the natural order of things, a thing as certain as the rising or the setting of the sun, and they are simply incapable of realising what it means, and that feeling will be shared by almost all of those who were the Queen's subjects, but are now the subjects of him who was the Prince of Wales, and to whom no new title is likely to be generally applied until after the Queen's funeral. Foreseen and expected as the event has been, it is a shock now that it has actually come, and the effect of it has been to cause a feeling of stunned bewilderment.

Present to draw all expressions of grief. Not that Osborne House is not full of sorrowful hearts, from the heart of the German Emperor, whose coming has been a real comfort to the Royal Family, to the very last of the servants in the house. That feeling will extend over the country, and it certainly is felt by me in such measure as to render the task of writing very difficult indeed. The Queen is gone from her people full of years and honours. There is no irreparable, but they may take some comfort from the thought that for her the beautiful prayer of Tennyson has been exactly fulfilled. That which he wrote, in dedicating the "Idylls of the King" to the dear Queen Consort, in an address to the Queen was -

"My love alone, but full, overshadow Thee,
The love of all Thy people compass Thee,
The love of all Thy dearest children Thee,
The love of all Thy faithful courtiers Thee."
"All this love set Thee at his right again."

All this love now he writes with the abundance and full truth in the past sense of a Queen without stain and without reproach, who has passed away full of years and honours.

Now for the necessary narrative of the events of the day. Last night the Queen lay in her bedchamber in the pavilion in a very restless state. It was locked, the only person allowed within being the doctors, the dressers, and two maids, who were under the superintendence of Nurse Reed, head of the sanatorium on the estate. The early morning bulletin, which spoke of diminished strength, showed that the end was drawing near, and in the meanwhile all the members of the Royal Family, who were within reach were summoned. The Bishop of Winchester, too, was summoned, and was with the Queen to the end. Before noon the flickering flame of life burned up more and full truth in the past sense of a Queen without stain and without reproach, who has passed away full of years and honours.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Central bankers flex their market muscles

European central banks bared their chests in the foreign exchange markets with a discreetly publicised display of concerted intervention to dampen the dollar yesterday. The move had the desired effect. The dollar, rising yesterday after a share rise on Wall Street ahead of the US GNP figures, was knocked back 1½ pence against the mark. Sterling recovered ground against the dollar after sinking nervous early trade.

The markets have been nervous of pushing the dollar up since last week's Group of 5 meeting re-affirmed their commitment to concerted action when needed. There were reports last Friday that both the Federal Reserve and Bank of England had been intervening and yesterday's move by European central banks was clearly designed to ensure that the markets took the G5 utterances seriously.

In contrast to last September when the German central bank caused pandemonium with a hefty onslaught which knocked 12 pence off the dollar in a matter of hours, yesterday's action was more subtle. At least half-a-dozen participants seem to have been involved, including the British, German, French and Austrian central banks. Although they may have spent several hundred million dollars between them, the knowledge that they were intervening has sobered the currency markets as much as the size of their dollar sales.

Yesterday's action has given the central bankers some psychological edge over the currency markets but it remains to be seen how long that lasts. The big dealers believe that the central banks cannot outgun market forces pushing the dollar determinedly upwards. But yesterday's concerted intervention has added to the mood of wariness and left the markets for the moment at least, more conscious of the risk of buying dollars much above these levels. However, there still is not much sign of any fundamental change in market sentiment towards the dollar.

The upward revision of US growth figures was accompanied by sombre projections of higher interest rates if nothing happens to the budget deficit — just the sort of message dollar fans like.

For those who hope Britain can avoid going along with the US, there is not much encouragement on interest rates to be gleaned from the public expenditure White Paper. Although there are no new alarms on public programmes — the planning totals are in line with last year's Medium Term Financial Strategy — there is a discouraging upward trend in the Government's forecast for debt interest payments.

This is one of the sums the Treasury got wrong last spring, an error for which it is now, presumably, trying to compensate heavily. It expects to pay £1 billion more in debt interest in 1984-85 than it forecast last February, and £1.5 billion more in 1985-86.

But yesterday's White Paper extended the gloom into later years. In 1986-87, the Treasury expects debt interest to be a full £2 billion higher than it was forecasting last spring.

Where have all the British gone?

Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hong Kong who played so vital a part in the Crown Colony's future after 1977, is a man with his hand firmly on Hong Kong's pulse. In the chairman's lecture at the Stock Exchange yesterday, Sir Edward nevertheless was stumped on one issue. He found it difficult to explain why the

British business community is noticeably failing to take the opportunities presented by a booming Hong Kong and its now much-enhanced position as the gateway to China.

"Confidence that an acceptable settlement would be achieved was always strong among a number of foreign businessmen," said Sir Edward. Americans invested strongly in the electronics industry there in the past three years and now account for four-fifths of foreign investment in that industry. Across the board, outsiders now have interests in some 500 factories, with the US accounting for more than half the investment and Japan for another fifth.

While the Americans have made their push into electronics, Japanese interest centred on finance, accounting for 10 of the 14 overseas banks licensed in the past two years. Japanese construction companies, it might be added, have been tendering highly competitively of late to gain a foothold for work in China, which is already, after the US, Hong Kong's second — largest trading partner — and another big investor.

But what of the British? More than 50 British companies manufacture in Hong Kong with an investment of around £88 million. "But this investment pales in comparison with that of the US, China and Japan," Sir Edward said. "British investment represented less than 7 per cent of total overseas investment in Hong Kong's industry, and Britain provided only 4 per cent of the colony's imports," he said. "This low level of UK involvement is difficult to explain."

There is no apparent reason why British companies should be at a disadvantage, as the few like GEC have demonstrated. As Sir Edward knows well — since his fluent Mandarin speaking in negotiation helped to create it — "there is now a fund of goodwill towards the United Kingdom in China and the region generally."

Part of the answer may lie in the enduring colonial mentality. Too many still see an image of Hong Kong as a few rich, often of British origins, who may be sold luxury goods and supplies and the teeming masses who provide cheap labour but do not have any money. The reality of an important, fast-growing and increasingly affluent economy simply has not come.

This image is reinforced by the conviction that the great hongs of British origin know what it is all about and they have been busy diversifying out of Hong Kong or selling to the locals. Jardine changed its residence to Bermuda and the Hongkong Bank was anxious to buy the Royal Bank of Scotland.

In one of those ironies that seem to dog attempts to step up British interest in Hong Kong, Sir Edward's speech coincided with news of another big sale by Jardine's debt-ridden property associate, Hongkong Land. In a £330 million deal, Hongkong Land has sold its 34 per cent stake in Hongkong Electric to Li Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa group. Mr Li, it may be remembered, attempted a near-takeover of Jardine with Sir Yuekong Pao when most concerned were in a delegation to London, spreading the same message as Sir Edward a couple of years ago.

It is true that Mr Li is perhaps more closely linked to China than any other leading Hong Kong businessman. But the deal, struck at a £25 million loss to Hongkong Land, was simply another attempt to cut its £1.5 billion debt mountain. The old British hongs may be losing out, but that should not cloud the new image of Hong Kong as a sophisticated market for technology.

US growth of 6.8% is fastest rate for over 30 years

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US economy, buoyed by an unexpected surge of consumer spending in the final quarter, grew last year at its fastest pace for three decades with strong growth of 6.8 per cent, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

Revised official figures, showing growth of 3.9 per cent in the fourth quarter, confirmed the remarks of a jubilant President Reagan who told guests at several of the nine inaugural balls he attended on Monday that America was heading for a "new beginning". Mr Reagan, referring to the unemployment figures, said: "I am not at liberty to tell you what they will say, but one will be the best since 1951 and the other will be the best since 1967."

The official figures confirm that the 6.8 per cent rise in gross national product was the best since 1951 and that the inflation rate, as measured by the accompanying price index, remained low at 3.7 per cent in

1984, the smallest increase since 1967.

Rumours abounded yesterday that Wall Street, which had a new record advance of 34 points on Monday, had advanced knowledge of the figures, but there was no evidence to support the claim. Markets remained active yesterday and more records were predicted.

Analysts said growth in the fourth quarter, after a sharp economic slowdown in the third quarter, confounded economists who have been at odds over the future of growth.

Some, citing record budgets and trade deficits, have warned of a "boom-bust" cycle in which the economy will experience several quarters of deficit-driven growth before contracting sharply when interest rates rise again and investor confidence is shaken.

Others, including Mr Alan Sinai, of Salomon Lehman American Express, predicted sustainable growth this year of



Baldridge fears on interest rates

between 4 per cent and 5 per cent. "What is emerging is a pattern of stronger-than-expected growth and less than expected inflation," Mr Sinai said.

But Mr Malcolm Baldridge, the US Commerce Secretary, said at a press conference

yesterday that the economy will be hit by another rise in interest rates this year if the record federal budget deficit is not reduced.

Meanwhile, the soaring dollar is starting to worry many Americans in government and industry as the impact of its formidable advance bites deeply into exports and upsets relations with the United States' principal allies.

Even though the dollar has been surging since President Reagan took office in 1981, this concern has been slow to emerge. And dealers still report a seemingly insatiable foreign appetite for US financial assets.

There are few signs that the average American, who does not work for an export industry and whose livelihood is not threatened by cheap foreign imports, cares at all.

In many parts of the industrial and farmbelt Midwest, however, the powerful dollar has begun to steal jobs and depress prices.

Go-ahead for Humble Grove oilfield

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The development of the Humble Grove oil field, five miles outside Basingstoke, has been approved by the Government and the first oil is likely to flow early next year.

The oilfield will be Britain's second largest, on shore, after BP's Wytch Farm field in Dorset, and will be the 21st onshore field in this country to come into production.

The field, operated by a consortium headed by Carless, Capel & Leonard — the company which recently unsuccessfully bid £100 million for Premier Consolidated Oilfields — will initially produce 2,500 barrels a day. The oil is comparable in quality to that now being produced by BP from its giant Forties field in the North Sea.

The Department of Energy yesterday approved Carless's development plan. Planning permission for the field was granted last month by Hampshire County Council and civil engineering work will start shortly.

A gathering terminal will be built and the oil will be pumped into road or rail tankers at a delivery terminal to be built between the A31 and the Alton to London railway line.

A total investment of round £25 million will be required to bring 11 wells into production. Mr John Leonard, chairman, said yesterday and output could increase to equal that of Wytch Farm, which is now producing 4,000 barrels a day.

The field is a 7.5 per cent stake in Wytch Farm and has announced oil discoveries at its Hornedown exploration site in Hampshire, which could ultimately be larger than the Humble Grove field. Appraisal drilling is taking place.

The Department of Energy, which will announce today the successful bids for the blocks being auctioned as part of the ninth round of offshore oil licensing, is due to launch the first round of blocks available for oil exploration onshore under the new rules governing onshore exploration. Details of the blocks available are likely to be revealed in two weeks.

Occidental Petroleum Corporation said oil reserves in the North Sea Piper field in the British sector block 15/17 have been increased by 53 million barrels after an independent assessment. Total reserves now stand at 890 million barrels, of which 620 million had already been produced by the end of 1984.

20 miles

Humble Grove LONDON SOUTHAMPTON

BP setback signals Selstrust liquidation

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Selstrust, the Australian mining company 75 per cent controlled by British Petroleum, is likely to go into voluntary liquidation after minority shareholders yesterday rejected BP's proposed re-organization of the company.

The rejection is a setback for BP's plans to extricate itself from the Selstrust imbroglio. Australian stockbrokers and shareholders challenged BP's estimates of Selstrust's worth and future, amid accusations of high-handedness by a foreign company.

Selstrust's main assets are 60 per cent of the Agnew nickel mine in Western Australia, 5 per cent of the production of the big Mt Newman iron ore mine, and 47.5 per cent of the promising 13m-tonne gold prospect in New South Wales.

The core of Selstrust derived from the old Selection Trust mining finance house which BP bought for £428 million in 1980 when oil companies believed that diversification into kinds of minerals was the way forward.

But the dream turned sour. BP Minerals, which swallowed up Selection Trust, last year incurred an operating loss of £3



Peter Walters: Threat to call in £80m loans

million. Selstrust itself has lost money for three years and now has debts of £511.4 million.

Of those borrowings, £80 million came from BP, whose chairman is Peter Walters. It was BP's threat to call in its loans if voluntary liquidation was not recommended by the Selstrust board which precipitated the crisis.

BP offered the minority shareholders a new company, called Paragon into which various assets including exploration rights in the Temora belt would be injected.

Consortium buys Wades

By William Kay, City Editor

Associated Dairies has arranged to dispose of Wades Departmental Stores, its loss-making retail subsidiary with 68 outlets round the country.

Wades is being bought by a consortium, including some members of its board, for £19 million Mr Stephen Hinchcliffe, a Sheffield businessman, is joining the company as chief executive. The present executive directors, Mr David Williams, Mr James Illingworth, Mr Douglas Noble and Mr Sam

Martin, are staying in the new company.

This month, Associated Dairies announced that Wades had slipped from a £839,000 profit to a loss of £390,000. But Mr Hinchcliffe predicted sales of more than £50 million this year and a return to profit.

The new owners were advised by Citicorp Venture Capital and National Commercial and Glyns. Williams & Glyns's Bank has provided banking facilities.

Ritblat bids £17m for Stylo stake

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

British Land has launched a £17 million bid for 51 per cent of Stylo, the Leeds shoe company controlled by the Ziff family. It is the first step in what would be an attempt to obtain control of Stylo, something which the markets have long been expecting, but which Mr Arnold Ziff, Stylo's chairman has resisted.

British Land is offering a share swap or cash for 9 million ordinary shares in a tender offer, in Stylo knowing that even if he receives acceptances for 8 million shares he will still only end up with 29.9 per cent of the voting rights.

The voting structure at Stylo gives management shareholders 43.8 per cent of the vote and the Ziff family manages to keep tight rein on the company by refusing to sell its management shares.

Mr John Ritblat, British Land's chairman, says that ordinary shareholders will be tempted by the 200p swap of British Land shares for their stake or 8p in cash. "The attraction from British Land's point of view must be the potential of Stylo's retail property portfolio."

British Land's US properties are showing results. The company has let 54,327 sq ft in its office refurbishment at 90 Broad Street Manhattan.

Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company has taken the special one sixth of the total, at a rent of about \$1.5 million (£1.33 million) a year. British Land acquired the building in 1982 and has bought a \$33 million New York office building in Manhattan from Leucadia, the US insurance group. Jones Lang Wootton acted on British Land in the Broad Street letting and Williams Real Estate for Manufacturers.

Option deal killed off at Dunlop

By Ian Griffiths

Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of Dunlop Holdings, and his two key executives, Mr Robin Biggam and Mr Roger Holmes have abandoned permanently their lucrative share option schemes after a meeting yesterday with the Dunlop Shareholders Association.

Under the scheme Sir Michael would have built a notional £1.3 million profit. However, the terms offered to Sir Michael and his colleagues by the company's bankers, attracted widespread criticism and after the £33 million bid for Dunlop by BTR last week the options were temporarily shelved.

After yesterday's meeting with the association Dunlop made it clear that the old scheme was dead and any new share options offered to the directors would be on different terms.

The Dunlop board is keen to enlist the support of the shareholders in its fight to stave off BTR's bid.

Professor Robert Pritchard, spokesman for the association, said: "We now see eye to eye on all issues of substance and the board will ensure that shareholders who wish to stay with Dunlop and participate in its recovery can do so without dilution of their stakes."

It is understood that one of the means that will be used to prevent dilution is for the company's banks to offer a larger portion of the ordinary shares which they will obtain in Dunlop under the proposed reconstruction.

Under the present terms the banks have agreed to make an open offer of half the 30 per cent stake in Dunlop's ordinary shares they would hold. If existing shareholders took up his offer in full and took up all their rights they would see only a 37 per cent dilution of their investment.

IN BRIEF

Share values rise £4.1 bn

Shares were strong again yesterday with, according to Datastream calculations, nearly £4,100 million added to stock market's values.

The FT 30 share index extended its gain over the 1,000 points mark, first topped last Friday, raising 20.6 points mark, first topped last Friday, raising 20.6 points to 1,024.5 points, a new peak.

The more broadly based FT SE share index was also at record high, crossing the 1,300 points level for the first time at 1,305.7 points, up 26.7 points.

Heavy American buying which prompted some British institutional investors to enter the market was the main factor behind the surge.

But the market drew strength from the drift back to work in the pits and hopes that interest rates, after their recent sharp increase, will soon start to fall.

Market report, page 22

Profits slip

Mercantile House, the financial services group, suffered a £3 million fall in pretax profits to £27.5 million during the six months to the end of last October. Earnings per share slipped from 21.5p to 19.01p, but the dividend was raised by 0.25p to 4p.

Tempos, page 22

The new international securities company to be formed by Wedd Daroch Mordaunt and Co, De Zoete & Bevan, and Barclays Merchant Bank is to be named Barclays De Zoete Wedd. The company will become operational when Stock Exchange rules permit, probably during the second half of next year.

£2.1m revenue

Transcontinental Services, the investment group which concentrates on special situations, produced revenue before tax of £2.1 million in the six months to September 30.

Tempos, page 22

Hotels improve

The hotel group Norfolk Capital raised pretax profits from £55,013 to £504,561 last year, lifting the dividend payout from 0.06p to 0.25p a share.

Tempos, page 22

Cronite, the Sheffield steel stockholding group which has just returned to the black after several years of losses, will ask shareholders at a special meeting for permission to keep borrowings at their present level, subject to a ceiling of £3.6 million, until 1988.

Stone booms

Stone International, manufacturer of railway air conditioning equipment, raised profits before tax by 20 per cent to £3.2 million in the first half of this year — its first results since coming to market last October.

Tempos, page 22

Saatchi expands

The advertising agency Saatchi and Saatchi is to pay \$4 million (£3.57m) for the New York direct marketing adviser Kleid Company.

Lagos calls for Opec price cut

By Our Energy Correspondent

Nigeria, which is currently out of step with its fellow members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on prices and production, suggested that a cut in the benchmark price should be made at the forthcoming OPEC ministerial meeting in Geneva.

Professor Tam David-West, the Nigerian oil minister who has been working this week in Saudi Arabia with Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani on a review of the Opec price differential formula, said yesterday that Opec should either increase the price of its heavy crudes or cut its present \$29-a-barrel market price.

Nigeria is presently selling its light crude at below the market price in competition with Britain and Norway who produce crudes of a similar quality.

The light crude producers within Opec have been arguing that the differential between their prices and that now being charged for the best-selling heavier crudes is too wide and is encouraging consumers to increasingly buy on the spot markets rather than on contract terms.

At its last meeting Opec increased the price of heavy crudes by 50 cents a barrel and cut the price of the very light crudes by 25 cents.

He said yesterday that "notable progress" had been made and that an agreement on a new differential price structure was likely soon.

One-class plan for LWT

By Allison Eadie

Voting and non-voting shareholders in LWT, the holding company for London Weekend Television, are being asked to approve proposals for the enfranchisement of the 16 million "A" ordinary non-voting shares at an extraordinary general meeting on February 15.

If approved, the enfranchise-

ment will create a single class of voting equity. The 60,000 voting shares will be compensated by the issue of five new shares for each old one held. The additional shares represent 1.79 per cent of the enlarged equity. Both classes of shareholder must approve with a 75 per cent majority for the scheme to go ahead.

The proposals have been in the pipeline for at least 18 months. Agreement in principle was reached with the Independent Broadcasting Authority in February 1984 and discussions have been going on since with both classes of shareholder.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS		MAIN PRICE CHANGES		CURRENCIES	
FT Ind Ord	1024.5 (+20.6)	RISES:		London:	
FT-A All Share	627.28 (+10.63)	Brown & Jackson	20p +3	2: \$1.1243 (-0.0010)	
FT Govt Sec	80.20 (unchanged)	Rotaprint	7.5p +1p	2: DM 2.9515 (-0.0080)	
FT-SE 100	1305.7 (+28.7)	Esplanade Trust	25p +3p	2: Sfr 2.9885 (+0.0015)	
Datagram	33.282	Briton Oil & Minerals	32p +4p	2: FF 10.90 (-0.0288)	
Datagram USM	106.54 (+0.83)	Acorn Computer	49p +6p	2: Yen 285.50 (+0.40)	
New York:		Bolton Textile	17p +2p	2: Index 71.3 (unchanged)	
Dow Jones	1265.89 (+4.52)	Watson, R Kelvin	107p +12p		
Tokyo:		Falcon Resources	284p +25p	New York:	
Nikkei Dow	11,868.12 (-96.40)	Assoc. Newspapers	720p +60p	2: \$1.1240	
Hong Kong:		KCA Drilling	25p +2p	2: DM 3.1715	
Hong Seng	1373.62 (+23.62)	Blackwood Hodge	25p +2p	2: Index 145.1 (+0.1)	
Amsterdam:		Weeks Associates	14p +1p	2: DM 2.8250	
Sydney: AO	195.2 (+3.3)	Thomas Borthwick	140p +10p	SDR 0.86878	
Frankfurt:		Blume Circle Industries	520p +37p		
Commerzbank	1171.1 (+1.7)	Spear & Jackson	148p +10p		
Brussels:		Hall Engineering	135p +9p		
General	118.29 (+21.87)	Midford Books	81p +4p		
Paris: CAC	191.9 (+1.1)	Stylo	514p +18p		
Zurich:		Salisbury	314p +18p		
SKA General	335.3 (+1.1)	Heard Smith	17.5p +1p		
		Unitech	303p +17p		
		Kalmazoo	289p +2p		

London: am \$306.85-306.90
am \$306.85-306.90 (2271.75)
272.25
New York: \$304.15
Comex (latest)

WALLS:
Novi (Jersey) Knit 33p -2p
Dunlop 34p -2p

The STOCKHOLDERS Investment Trust p.l.c.

Highlights of the year ended 31st October 1984

- ◆ 76% of resources in U.S. at year end.
- ◆ Annual dividend increased 22.1% to 2.35p.
- ◆ Consolidated total resources at record level of £131 million.
- ◆ Net asset value per share increased 13.4% to 148p.

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Annual Report.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
1	Breweries	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
2	Guinness (A)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
3	Red (Aurum)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
4	Vaux	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
5	Whitbread (A)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
6	Greenall Whiteley	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
7	Brown (Mathew)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
8	Allied-Lyons	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
9	Clark (Mathew)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
10	Greene King	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
11	Lea	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
12	Rotork	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
13	Rank Org	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
14	Norcross	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
15	Restmor	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
16	Lea (Aurum)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
17	Paide	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
18	Plastic Centre	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
19	LCP	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
20	Macfarlane	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
21	Brown & Jackson	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
22	Marchfield	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
23	SCB	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
24	Lochs (William)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
25	Monk (A)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
26	Magill & Smith	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
27	Rugby Cement	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
28	Blackley	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
29	Manders	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
30	Motors and Aircraft	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
31	Br Car Auctions	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
32	Flight Refueling	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
33	Jaguar	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
34	Sales (A)	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
35	Lea	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
36	AE	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
37	Leasing Motor	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
38	Hagada Motor	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
39	London	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5
40	BL	12.4	12.0	12.2	0.8	15.2	6.5

Weekly Dividend

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
10.1	9.8	10.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
10.2	9.9	10.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
10.3	10.0	10.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
10.4	10.1	10.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
10.5	10.2	10.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
10.6	10.3	10.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
10.7	10.4	10.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
10.8	10.5	10.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
10.9	10.6	10.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.0	10.7	10.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
11.1	10.8	11.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.2	10.9	11.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.3	11.0	11.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.4	11.1	11.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.5	11.2	11.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.6	11.3	11.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.7	11.4	11.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.8	11.5	11.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
11.9	11.6	11.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.0	11.7	11.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

INDEX-LINKED

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
12.1	11.8	12.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.2	11.9	12.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.3	12.0	12.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.4	12.1	12.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.5	12.2	12.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.6	12.3	12.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.7	12.4	12.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.8	12.5	12.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
12.9	12.6	12.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.0	12.7	12.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

BREWERIES

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
13.1	12.8	13.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.2	12.9	13.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.3	13.0	13.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.4	13.1	13.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.5	13.2	13.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.6	13.3	13.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.7	13.4	13.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.8	13.5	13.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
13.9	13.6	13.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.0	13.7	13.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
14.1	13.8	14.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.2	13.9	14.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.3	14.0	14.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.4	14.1	14.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.5	14.2	14.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.6	14.3	14.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.7	14.4	14.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.8	14.5	14.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
14.9	14.6	14.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.0	14.7	14.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES
Equities forge ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 14. Dealings End, Jan 25. Contango Day, Jan 28. Settlement Day, Feb 4.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
15.1	14.8	15.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.2	14.9	15.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.3	15.0	15.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.4	15.1	15.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.5	15.2	15.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.6	15.3	15.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.7	15.4	15.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.8	15.5	15.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
15.9	15.6	15.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.0	15.7	15.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
16.1	15.8	16.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.2	15.9	16.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.3	16.0	16.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.4	16.1	16.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.5	16.2	16.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.6	16.3	16.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.7	16.4	16.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.8	16.5	16.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
16.9	16.6	16.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.0	16.7	16.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

FINANCE AND LAND

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
17.1	16.8	17.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.2	16.9	17.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.3	17.0	17.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.4	17.1	17.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.5	17.2	17.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.6	17.3	17.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.7	17.4	17.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.8	17.5	17.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
17.9	17.6	17.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.0	17.7	17.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

FOODS

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
18.1	17.8	18.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.2	17.9	18.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.3	18.0	18.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.4	18.1	18.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.5	18.2	18.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.6	18.3	18.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.7	18.4	18.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.8	18.5	18.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
18.9	18.6	18.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.0	18.7	18.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
19.1	18.8	19.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.2	18.9	19.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.3	19.0	19.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.4	19.1	19.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.5	19.2	19.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.6	19.3	19.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.7	19.4	19.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.8	19.5	19.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
19.9	19.6	19.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.0	19.7	19.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

CINEMAS AND TV

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
20.1	19.8	20.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.2	19.9	20.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.3	20.0	20.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.4	20.1	20.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.5	20.2	20.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.6	20.3	20.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.7	20.4	20.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.8	20.5	20.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
20.9	20.6	20.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.0	20.7	20.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

DRAPERY AND STORES

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
21.1	20.8	21.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.2	20.9	21.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.3	21.0	21.2	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.4	21.1	21.3	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.5	21.2	21.4	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.6	21.3	21.5	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.7	21.4	21.6	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.8	21.5	21.7	0.7	14.3	4.9
21.9	21.6	21.8	0.7	14.3	4.9
22.0	21.7	21.9	0.7	14.3	4.9

ELECTRICALS

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	1984/85 Price	1984/85 Dividend	1984/85 P/E	1984/85 Yield %
22.1	21.8	22.0	0.7	14.3	4.9
22.2	21.9	22.1	0.7	14.3	4.9
22.3	22.0	22.2	0.7	14.3	4.9

TIMETABLE		1985
Tender Offer closes	3.00 p.m.	Tuesday, 5th February
Announcement of result of Tender Offer	by 9.30 a.m.	Wednesday, 6th February
Dealings commence in New British Land shares	2.00 p.m.	Wednesday, 6th February
Renounceable letters of allotment and cheques posted		Tuesday, 19th February
Last date for splitting		Wednesday, 20th March
Last date for registration of renunciation		Friday, 22nd March
Definitive certificates posted		Friday, 19th April

22nd January, 1985

Dear Sir or Madam,

Tender price	Share Alternative No. of New British Land shares (note (ii))	Value (note (ii))	Cash Alternative Value
p		£	£
165	126	175	165
170	130	180	170
175	134	186	175
180	138	191	180
185 (Maximum Tender Price)	142	197	185

Terms and condition

(e) all tenders must be made on the Form of Tender, duly completed in accordance with the instructions therein which constitute part of the terms of the Tender Offer.

"British Land"	The British Land Company Plc.
"British Land shares"	Ordinary shares of 25p each in British Land.
"Stylo"	Stylo PLC.
"Stylo Management shares"	Management shares of 25p each in Stylo.
"Stylo Ordinary shares"	Limited Voting Ordinary shares of 25p each in Stylo.

"the Tender Offer" the offer to acquire up to 9,023,337 Stylo Ordinary shares by tender, details of which are set out in this document;

Taxation

Procedure for tendering

(i) The Share Alternative

(ii) The Cash Alternative

(iii) **Partly the Share Alternative and partly the Cash Alternative**

(iv) General

Forms of Tender duly completed should be returned together with the relevant share certificate(s) and/or other document(s) of title to Hill Samuel Registrars Limited, 6 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PL as soon as possible but in any event so as to arrive not later than 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 5th February, 1985, if your share certificate(s) and/or other document(s) of title is/are not readily available or is/are lost. Forms of Tender should nevertheless be completed and signed and returned as indicated above. The share certificate(s) and/or other document(s) of title should be forwarded as soon as possible thereafter and, although no allotment of New British shares or cash payment will be made until such document(s), or an acceptable copy thereof, has/have been received by the Company, the Company does reserve the right to treat tenders for the Share Alternative (but not tenders for the Cash Alternative) as valid although not complete in all respects or not accompanied by the relevant certificate(s) and/or other document(s) of title.

Where a recognised bank, licensed institution (within the meaning of the Banking Act 1979), Trustee Savings Bank, National Girobank or a member of The Stock Exchange affixes its stamp to the Form of Tender, British Land will pay a fee (together with VAT, where appropriate) from its own resources equivalent to ½ per cent. of the value at the striking price of the Sxto Ordinary shares represented by

February, 1985. If the minimum level of tenders is achieved, British Land will announce the striking price and the basis of scaling down tenders at the striking price, if applicable.

(1) The

The New British Land shares will be issued credited as fully paid and will rank *pari passu* with the existing issued British Land shares except that they will not rank for the interim dividend of 0.75p per share declared on 18th December, 1984 for payment on 4th February, 1985.

(ii) The Cash Alternative

Cheques will be despatched not later than 19th February, 1985, to Stylo Ordinary shareholders who elect for the Cash Alternative and whose tenders, valid and complete in all respects, are received before the Tender Offer closes or who, in the event that a listing for the New British Land shares is not granted before the Tender Offer closes, are deemed to elect for the Cash Alternative.

(iii) General

All documents and remittances sent by or to Style Ordinary shareholders will be sent at their risk. If the Tender Offer does not become unconditional, Forms of Tender, certificates and other documents of title will be returned by post by 19th February, 1985.

Appendix 1

General Information

7. British Land Shareholding

As the close of business on 21st January, 1985, British Land owned 1,490,000 Stylo Ordinary shares, representing 4.25 per cent. of the voting rights and 7.21 per cent. of the issued share capital of Stylo. Of these, British Land bought 795,000 in the market on 10th September, 1984 at a price of 88p per share. If British Land acquires the maximum number of Stylo Ordinary shares for which the Tender Offer is made, it will own 10,513,337 Stylo Ordinary shares, representing 29.99 per cent. of the voting rights and 50.30 per cent. of the issued share capital of Stylo.

2. Market Quotations

The following table sets out the middle market quotations for British Land shares and Saylor Ordinary shares based on The Stock Exchange Daily Official List, at the close of business on the first dealing day of each month from August 1984 to January 1985 and on 21st January, 1985, the last dealing day before printing this document:-

	British Land shares	Style Ordinary shares
	p	q
1984		
1st August	121	98
3rd September	127	101 xd
1st October	125	122 xd
1st November	139	137
3rd December	140	143
1985		
2nd January	149	146
21st January	139 xd	148

2 The Cash Alternatives

(a) We, Morgan Grenfell, as principals hereby offer to purchase or procure purchasers for, on the terms and subject to the conditions set out or referred to in this document, up to 12,840,903 New British Land shares to which Stylo Ordinary shareholders may become entitled under the Tender Offer at a price of 130p per share in cash, free of all expenses. The offer by Morgan Grenfell is conditional on (i) the Tender Offer becoming unconditional in all respects and (ii) a listing for the New British Land shares having been granted (subject to allotment) and having become effective.

(b) If the above condition (M) is not fulfilled, the cash required to satisfy elections for the Cash Alternative will be provided by British Land out of its own resources and no New British Land shares will be allotted in respect thereof. Morgan Grenfell is satisfied that the necessary financial resources are available to British Land for it to implement the Cash Alternative in full in those circumstances.

(c) By an agreement dated 22nd January, 1985 between Morgan Grenfell and British Land, Morgan Grenfell has agreed to purchase or procure purchasers for up to 12,840,902 New British Land shares at 130p per share in cash for a commitment commission of 7 1/2 per cent on the aggregate purchase price of such shares, a commission of 1/4 per cent on the value at the date of such shares and, if the conditions in (b) above are fulfilled, a further commission of 1/4 per cent on the value at such price of such shares. Out of these commissions Morgan Grenfell will pay underwriting commissions, a fee to the brokers and its own legal fees.

How central banks can cut the dollar down to size

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

By
Tim Congdon

The dollar is over-bought, over-extended and over-estimated. Plausible explanations for its strength on the foreign exchange market have disappeared. Its role as an international currency is increasingly out of balance with the United States' importance in the world economy.

Realistically valued, American exports may be about 10 per cent of the world total. As a proportion of OECD exports, they are rather higher, but — as the table shows — Japanese exports are now almost as large. By contrast, the dollar is dominant in international currency transactions and holdings. It represents over 80 per cent of the world's non-gold reserves and is by far the most widely held offshore currency. In June last year, 77.6 per cent of Eurocurrency deposits were in dollars, more than eight times the amount in German marks. The creditability gap, between a country generating 10 per cent of the world exports and a currency which constitutes 80 per cent of international money, is wide when presented so starkly. However, the current affairs would be viable if certain conditions were satisfied. Unfortunately, these conditions are satisfied less fully today than in the past.

The attractions of the dollar have traditionally been its reliability as a store of value

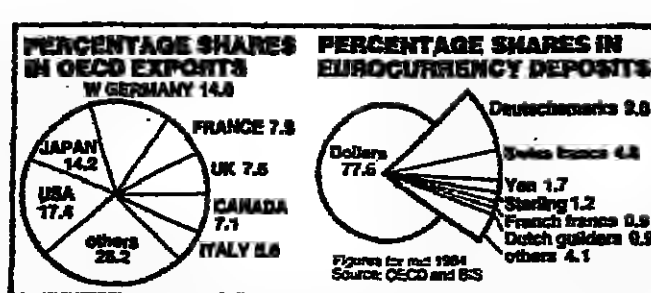
and the ease with which it can be bought and sold. At present, its reputation as a store of value is still robust because it has been gaining ground on the foreign exchanges for four years and continues to yield a higher return than other leading currencies. But the differential between yields in dollars and in marks or yen is also a sign of weakness. It is a measure of how much international investors must be paid to compensate them for the dollar's expected future depreciation. Until the late 1960s, American interest rates were nearly always beneath those in other countries, as there were no fears of systematic and sustained dollar decline.

Indeed, it can be argued that the health of the international financial system would be best served if the dollar fell quickly, sharply and soon. A large depreciation would help the US balance of payments and so create a base from which expectations of dollar stability might be restored.

The recent meeting in Washington between the finance ministers of the five

leading industrial nations seems to have led to a re-assessment of official attitudes towards the dollar. Intervention on the foreign exchanges is now regarded as a worthwhile topic for discussion, although not necessarily as an immediate priority for action. But how should intervention be organized? In Britain, and perhaps in some other countries, central bank reluctance to intervene stems from worries that operations in the foreign exchange markets have repercussions on domestic money supply growth. Memories of some misguided intervention episodes in the late 1970s are deeply engrained at the Treasury.

It is well known that, when he was at the London Business School in 1977, Sir Terence



Government to finance its budget deficit without resort to the banking system. If it does not borrow from the banks, the money supply is unchanged. More concretely, if a government raises its dollar reserves it does not need to monetize its deficit. To neutralize money supply effects, intervention has both to depress the dollar's value and leave unchanged the availability of sterling to the British Government, of marks to the German government and so on. On the face of it, these two requirements are incompatible. But they are not. If the Bank of England sells \$112 million and buys £100 million sterling, it is under no compulsion to keep that sterling. The £100

million sterling could be sold to the Bundesbank, the Bank of Japan and the Swiss National Bank in return for a mix of marks, yen and Swiss francs. At the end of the transactions, the Bank of England would have an unchanged quantity of sterling, fewer dollars and more of other hard currencies. Although there would be no impact on M3, sterling M3 or any other monetary aggregate, the dollar would have suffered selling pressure and the composition of Britain's foreign exchange reserves would have altered, something more in line with the relative trading importance of the important economies.

The Bundesbank, the Bank of Japan and the Swiss National Bank could conduct similar operations, selling dollars and buying other hard currencies with the domestic currency proceeds. The total non-gold reserves of these institutions and the Bank of England amount to almost \$90 billion. If they all agreed to reduce the proportion of dollars in their reserves by 20 per cent, net sales of the dollar would be \$18 billion.

Some \$18 billion of dollar selling might or might not depress the American currency's exchange rate. If it failed to have any immediate effect, not much harm would have been done and in the long run central banks' profits will benefit from their reserves being in currencies with better prospects than the dollar.

Foreign exchange operators sometimes sneer at central bank intervention because it is supposed to be ineffective. They might care to reflect that the Bundesbank bought most of its dollars for less than 2.5 marks each. With the exchange rate now at almost 3.2, and enormous interest payments in recent years as well, the Bundesbank has done very nicely, thank you, for the German people. Why should not other central banks imitate its example, with the deliberate intention of earning the best long-run return for their ultimate shareholders, the taxpayers of Britain, Japan and any other countries concerned?

The author is economics partner at the stockbroker L. Messel & Co.

Appendix II

Financial and other information on British Land

1. **Responsibility**
The Directors of British Land, whose names appear in paragraph 2 below, are the persons responsible for the information contained in this document. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this document is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors accept responsibility accordingly.

2. Directors, Secretary and Registered Office

(a) **Directors:**
John Ribbitt, F.S.A. (Chairman and Managing Director)
Stanley Berwin (Deputy Chairman)
David M. Cohen, F.C.A., F.C.C.A.
Cyril Mettles, F.C.A.
John H. Weston Smith, M.A., F.C.I.S.
David C. Berry, F.C.A.

(b) **Secretary:**
David Wilson, F.C.I.S.

(c) **Registered Office:**
10 Cornhill Terrace, Regent's Park, London NW1 4QP. Registered in England No. 621920.

3. Share Capital

(a) The authorised and issued share capital of British Land as it is now and as it will be assuming issue of 12,540,503 New British Land shares, being the maximum number of shares to be issued at the Maximum Tender Price, is as follows:

Authorized	Present	After full conversion of the Stock (see (b) (i))	After Tender Offer
Ordinary shares of 25p each, fully paid	28,883,087	28,883,180	37,188,458
Ordinary shares of 25p each, 2 1/2p paid	5,187	5,187	5,187
43,800,000	28,888,274	28,888,370	37,204,585

(b) Since 31st March, 1984, there have been the following changes in British Land's issued and paid-up share capital:

- On 11th September, 1984, 27,500 Ordinary shares, issued 2 1/2p paid under the British Land Company Limited Share Incentive Scheme (1970), were fully paid up following a call made by British Land.
- During the month of September 1984, holders of British Land's 12 per cent Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 2002 ("the Stock") holding in aggregate £1,125,890 (nominal of the Stock), exercised rights to convert their holdings into British Land shares giving rise to the issue and allotment, as at 30th September, 1984, of 3,752,387 new fully paid Ordinary shares of 25p each of British Land, ranking pari passu in all respects with the existing fully paid Ordinary shares. 28,443,398 nominal of the Stock remains outstanding which is convertible into 28,443,480 new fully paid Ordinary shares of 25p each.
- Directors and employees hold options over 820,000 British Land shares under the British Land Company Plc 1983 Share Option Scheme. The amount payable for each such share in the event of the option being exercised is 75p. The options are exercisable between November 1985 and November 1989.
- Directors and employees hold options over 917,360 British Land shares under the British Land Company Plc 1984 Share Option Scheme. The amount payable for each such share in the event of the option being exercised is 140p. The options are exercisable between December 1987 and December 1991.
- Except as shown above, no capital of British Land or of its subsidiaries is under option, or agreed conditionally or unconditionally to be put under option.

4. Directors' and Other Interests

(a) The Directors of British Land have the following beneficial interests (as defined by the Companies Act 1967 as amended) in the share and loan capital of British Land:

	Fully paid	Ordinary shares 2 1/2p paid	Under option (1983 Scheme)	Under option (1984 Scheme)	Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 2002	12 per cent Convertible Unsecured Loan Stock 2002
John Ribbitt	43,037	—	130,000	200,000	—	270,000
Stanley Berwin	4,200	—	—	—	—	—
David M. Cohen	38,418	30,000	100,000	98,825	—	9,000
Cyril Mettles	23,736	30,000	100,000	98,825	—	6,475
John H. Weston Smith	15,214	30,000	100,000	98,825	—	2,000
David C. Berry	14,240	25,000	100,000	98,825	—	3,000

In his capacity as first trustee, Mr. Cyril Mettles holds a non-beneficial interest of £1,100 in the 15 per cent First Mortgage Debenture Stock 1987.

(b) No person has notified British Land of any interest of 5 per cent or more in its issued share capital.

5. Balance Sheet

The following is a summary of the consolidated balance sheet of British Land and its subsidiaries at 31st March, 1984, based on the audited consolidated balance sheet at that date:

	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	289,199	
Properties of investment subsidiaries	3,107	
Industrial plant and vehicles	83,175	
Investments	—	348,475
Current assets		
Properties of trading subsidiaries	31,966	
Stocks	3,054	
Debtors	14,721	
Investments — securities	18,228	
Deposits and cash at bank	31,284	
	88,273	
	(42,826)	
Net current assets		45,447
Net assets		(185,115)
Capital and reserves		
Called up share capital	26,014	
Share premium	30,572	
Capital reserves	—	
Unrealised other revaluation	(4,688)	
Realised	123,324	
	32,835	
Revenue reserves		151,470
Shareholders' funds		36,761
		236,807

Notes:—

(i) Properties of investment subsidiaries are as follows:—

	£'000
Freehold	221,795
Long leasehold	35,187
Short leasehold	1,237
258,199	

(ii) Borrowings at 31st March, 1984 are included in creditors as follows:—

	£'000
Due within one year	18,703
Due after one year	165,115
184,818	

and are as follows:—

	£'000
Secured	111,058
Unsecured	73,760
184,818	

6. Profits and Dividends

The following is a summary of the consolidated profits and dividends of British Land for the five financial years ended 31st March, 1984, based on the audited consolidated accounts of the British Land group for those years:—

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Profit before taxation	3,913	4,782	6,325	7,713	9,023
Taxation (charge)/credit	2,398	1,565	(121)	(760)	(575)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	6,311	6,347	6,104	6,953	8,445
Dividends	(198)	(250)	(1520)	(1,300)	(2,080)
Retained profit for the year	6,116	6,097	5,584	5,653	6,365
Earnings per share	8.1p	8.0p	6.9p	6.7p	8.1p
Dividends per share (net)	0.25p	0.25p	0.50p	1.25p	2.00p

7. Accounting Policies

The accounting policies of British Land as stated in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1984 and applicable to the historical cost accounts summarised above, are as follows:—

Accounting basis
The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investment properties and certain investments.

Consolidation
The consolidated accounts include the accounts of the parent and all subsidiaries. Subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are included for the appropriate periods.

Premiums on acquisitions of subsidiaries are attributed first to cost of properties; any excess over their market value is charged against capital reserve.

Accounting practices of subsidiaries which differ from the group's accounting policies are adjusted on consolidation.

In accordance with Section 149(8) of the Companies Act 1948 a separate profit and loss account for the parent is not presented.

Conversion of foreign currencies
All currencies are converted at year end rates and surpluses or deficits on exchange are placed to capital account.

Revaluation or disposal of properties and investments
Surpluses and deficits arising from the revaluation of properties and investments held as fixed assets are placed to unrealised capital account. On disposal these items are eliminated and surpluses and deficits by reference to cost are placed to realised capital account. Revaluations for the year, adjusted for disposals, are transferred to revaluation reserve.

Where properties held for investment are appropriated to or from trading stock, they are transferred at market value.

Deferred taxation
No provision is made for tax on capital gains which would arise if properties and investments owned by the group were to be realised at the amounts at which they are stated in the accounts. Provision is only made for deferred tax if the directors expect liabilities to arise in the future.

Development and trading properties
Interest and other outgoings, less rental income attributable to properties in course of development, are deemed to be part of the development cost, provided the directors consider it prudent having regard to the development potential of the property.

The following criteria are applied:—

(a) A property ceases to be treated as a development either nine months after practical completion or when two-thirds of the anticipated gross income becomes receivable, whichever is the earlier.

(b) Interest is calculated by reference to specific borrowings where relevant and otherwise on the average rate applicable to short-term loans.

Properties and developments held by trading subsidiaries are stated in the group balance sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value and surpluses and deficits on sales are dealt with through revenue account.

Amortisations and depreciation
No amortisation or depreciation is provided in respect of freehold or long leasehold properties. The directors consider that this accounting policy results in the accounts showing a true and fair view.

Leaseholds of less than 50 years held by investment subsidiaries are written off on a straight line basis. Where they have been revalued, the additional amortisation is charged to unrealised capital account.

Industrial plant and vehicles are depreciated over their estimated lives, at rates varying between 5% and 25%.

Stock
Stock and work in progress is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value on a first in, first out basis and includes attributable labour and overheads.

8. Interim Statement

The following is a copy of the interim statement for the half-year to 30th September, 1984 issued on 18th December, 1984:—

	Half-year to 30th September (Unaudited) 1984	1983	Year to 31st March 1984
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Profit and Loss Account			
Net rental income	7,211	6,559	13,250
Industrial profit	907	874	1,883
Property sales profit	1,249	1,041	2,707
Securities dealing, dividends and sundry income	1,182	1,505	4,125
Profit before interest and taxation	10,549	9,979	22,075
Interest	6,506	6,369	13,055
Profit before taxation	4,043	3,610	9,020
Taxation	1,182	473	575
Profit attributable to members	2,861	3,137	8,445
Dividend	809	520	2,080
Retained	2,052	2,617	6,365
Earnings per share	2.75p	3.0p	8.1p
Dividend per share	0.75p	0.5p	2.0p
Realised capital surplus	5,556	326	2,778

Notes:—

The interest charge is stated net of interest receivable and of £0.45m, deemed to be part of the development cost of properties. The corresponding development interest for the half-year to 30th September, 1983 and for the year to 31st March, 1984 was £0.12m. and £0.27m. respectively.

The interim statement does not incorporate any adjustments in the book values of investment properties held at 30th September, 1984 or for unrealised exchange movements.

Chairman's Review

The results for the half year ended 30th September, 1984 exclude any contribution from the major corporate acquisition of Rank City Wall or Grippero Holdings and their positive earnings will be reflected in the full year's figures. In the half year under review there was a 12% improvement in pretax profit from £3.6m. to £4m. Net rental income alone at £7.2m. for the half year exceeded the net cost of interest by £0.7m. The industrial division W. Crowther & Sons Plc. continued to improve its overall contribution. Grippero is meeting expectations at the time of its purchase for a net consideration of £3.5m.

In Australia the announced sale of the residual 24.5% equity interest in Postland Property Trust has been completed thus releasing net funds in excess of A\$16m.

In New York, the British Land of America joint redevelopment of the 24 storey Sofia Building facing the Lincoln Center is now well advanced with only 5 of the 93 apartments remaining unsold. Prior to its completion in the spring the entire office content of 66,000 sq. ft. has also been pre-sold and the total cost of development has already been more than covered.

British Land of America has financed the acquisition, on a limited partnership basis, of 315 Park Avenue South, New York, a 282,000 sq. ft. freehold building on which it has secured a mortgage of US\$ 38m. In addition, the vendor of the building has accepted US\$ 3m. of the consideration by way of 500,000 shares in British Land of America, its gross assets in America now approach US\$ 100m. marking further progress since British Land's investment in this company which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The office developments at Bond Street, London, W.1., St. Stephen's Green, Dublin and Moorfields, Liverpool amounting in total to some 140,000 sq. ft. are virtually complete and active letting campaigns are under way.

Investment made a further issue of publicly quoted 75m. 5 1/2% Swiss Franc Bonds on an unsecured non-amortising basis for 15 years. Guildhall Currency Management Company will continue to provide controlled currency management of these funds.

The Rank City Wall purchase in October added £93.5m. of property at October, 1983 valuation and the gross assets of the Group are now some £350m. The portfolio was acquired for £49m. after allowing for the benefit of its own long term borrowings of £14m. representing a 33% discount on net assets.

The Rank City Wall portfolio provides the Group with a strong retail base with 52% by value located in the South East of England and 31% in Scotland. This retail emphasis, 63% by value, includes 6 major shopping centres totalling over 1m. sq. ft. of net lettable area. The estimated net rental income represents an initial 11% return on cost which is expected to increase by £2m. p.a. to 14% within 2 years. The City Wall portfolio and its management have already been fully integrated into the Group's operations with consequent savings.

The Group has spent over £30m. since January where the emphasis has been upon larger transactions offering a substantial discount to net assets and sustaining a high and well spread revenue return. The Group remains comfortably financed with its net debt at 45% of property and investment assets.

The Board is pleased to announce the payment of an increased interim dividend of 3% which will be paid on 4th February, 1985 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 10th January, 1985. Whilst this payment is partially intended to balance the disparity between the interim and final dividend payments it is the Board's intention to recommend a final dividend of not less than 8%.

John Ribbitt
Chairman

9. Acquisitions since 31st March, 1984

(a) Grippero Holdings p.l.c.

British Land acquired Grippero Holdings p.l.c. ("Grippero") for a net consideration of some £9.5 million satisfied in cash and loan notes pursuant to an offer dated 31st August, 1984.

(b) Rank City Wall Limited

On 31st October, 1984 British Land acquired Rank City Wall Limited ("RCW") from The Rank Organisation Plc for a consideration of some £48 million paid in cash.

10. Pro-forma Statement of Consolidated Net Tangible Assets

The following pro-forma statement of consolidated net tangible assets prior to the Tender Offer, together with the notes set out below, is based on the audited consolidated balance sheet of the British Land group at 31st March, 1984 and has been adjusted to reflect:—

- the acquisition of the whole of the issued share capital of Grippero based on its audited consolidated balance sheet at 27th April, 1984;
- the disposal of the British Land group's 24.5 per cent. holding in Postland Property Trust ("Postland"), based on its book value in British Land's audited consolidated balance sheet at 31st March, 1984; and
- the acquisition of the whole of the issued share capital of RCW, based on an independent valuation of the RCW portfolio.

	As at 31st March, 1984	Acquisition of Grippero £ million	Disposal of Postland £ million	Acquisition of RCW £ million	Pro-forma £ million
Properties	289.3	1.6	—	93.5	384.4
Investments	83.2	—	(9.8)	—	73.4
Liquid resources:—					
at 31st March, 1984	48.5	—	9.8	(8.0)	48.5
consideration	—	—	—	(8.0)	0.8
	48.5	—	9.8	(8.0)	50.3
Other net assets/ (liabilities)	(2.3)	4.9	—	(5.0)	(2.4)
	46.2	4.9	—	79.5	516.7
Borrowings:—					
at 31st March, 1984	(184.8)	—	—	—	(184.8)
consideration	—	(11.3)	—	(48.0)	(59.3)
	(184.8)	(11.3)	—	(54.0)	(250.1)
Net tangible assets	244.9	(4.8)	—	25.5	265.6
Per share:—					
— basic	235p	—	—	—	255p
— fully diluted	167p	—	—	—	202p

Notes:—

TEMPUS

Slip at Mercantile shows pitfalls of specialization

Mercantile House's interim pretax profits, down £3 million to £27.5 million, show how difficult it is to build a financial conglomerate - or "investment banking" group as Mercantile now styles itself - when three-quarters of the profits come from one source.

The drop is largely attributable to the slower performance at Opco, the investment banking arm of Oppenheimer in New York. This, of course, could be quickly changed in the present half by a single deal, but that is not quite the quality of earnings the market wants.

Wholesale broking, however, generated higher profits, partly because the US government securities business was solid. But the American contribution overall is evidently vulnerable to exchange rate movements, and the group profit would have looked rather worse without a strong dollar.

Mercantile also benefited in another way from the activity on foreign exchange markets. Money broking's contribution was markedly higher, and it was the old stalwart M. W. Marshall which brought home the bacon.

However, the third leg of Mercantile's strategy, fund management, bent a little under the strain and made smaller profits. There are intimations that the present half is better and that Britain in particular is showing more life.

On this basis, Mercantile will be lucky to match last year's profits of £36 million. The question is whether 1984-85 is just a year in which the markets went the wrong way or the long-term strategy, needs reassessment.

Much will depend on how successful Mr John Barkshire is

in taking the group into the Far East. That long-term process deserves a long-term attitude to the shares. On last night's price of 349p, up 7p, the yield of 5 per cent indicates continued confidence in the market.

Stone International

Stone International is one of the few survivors of the acrimonious collapse of Stone-Platt, its debt-laden parent, in 1982. Bought from the receivers by the management, it has traded consistently ahead of its own valuations, culminating in a full Stock Exchange listing last October nearly three years ahead of the business plan.

Yesterday's interim results confirmed that the listing was far from premature. Pretax profits of £3.2 million up from £2.6 million were the by-product of consistent progress across the board. However, if that consistency is to give way to a more spectacular performance then it is clear that the group must look to acquisitions. To finance these acquisitions the listing is essential.

The areas singled out for particular attention will be the energy division and the electronics division. Both divisions make only meagre contributions to profits and in markets where big beautiful Stone International can not afford to rely on internal growth to build business.

The group had made its first tentative step along the acquisition trail with the modest £1.2 million purchase of the industrial boiler and pressure vessel operations of Banks Gowerton, ironically from the receivers. It will be some

months before the operations are fully integrated into the group and register any significant impact on the energy division's performance.

In the short term it will be the transportation division which continues to dominate the group's fortunes. The shares slipped 4p to 136p on announcement of the results. This is still comfortably ahead of the 125p issue price, but in the absence of spectacular news about acquisitions or big contracts there might be a period of consolidation.

Norfolk Capital

Norfolk Capital's policy to go for quality instead of quantity is paying off. Pretax profits last year rose from £55,000 to just over £500,000, the best performance since 1979.

The heavy expenditure on refurbishing its flagship Royal Court hotel in Sloane Square is justified by a six-fold improvement in operating profits since its reopening two years ago and it is now the power house of the group.

It has enabled the hotel to crank up its tariffs very substantially, so reducing the dependence on cheap coach tour bookings in favour of less price-sensitive individual and company visitors who now account for 70 per cent of the group's business against 58 per cent in 1983.

The programme has been costly, however, and is not over yet. The Norfolk Hotel in Kensington is going through a similar facelift at a cost of £3.2 million and will not reopen until late this year.

While London's three hotels accounting for 60 per cent of trading profits Norfolk Capital

would clearly like another but admits it is frightened off by some of the price tags.

In the meantime it is taking a close look at its collection of eight provincial hotels, now boosted by the acquisition of the Old Swan at Harrogate already producing "excellent results".

Occupancy rates are up in London, 84 per cent against 75 per cent in the province, from 51 per cent to 53 per cent.

There is clearly much potential and under the direction of Lady Joseph - Sir Maxwell Joseph's widow - the long overdue shake-up of the business is starting to reap benefits. Hence the recent bid interest. At 28p the shares offer solid if not spectacular growth.

Transcontinental Services

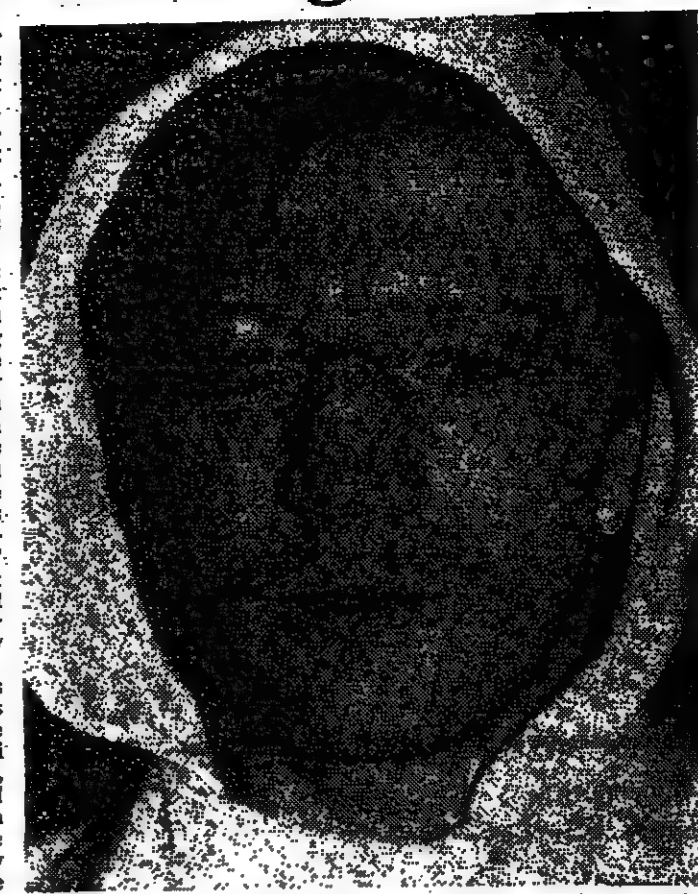
Transcontinental Services is registered in the Dutch Antilles, run from New York and listed in London. It is an investment company not an investment trust. It is bound to attract considerable attention over the coming months.

It produced some fairly meaningless results yesterday for the six months to September 30 last. Transcontinental's listing was restored only last November and its new role as snapper-up of "special situations" is only just taking shape. The listing had been suspended in 1983.

It is still too early to assess how well the company is faring but the net asset value had increased to 233p on January 15, fully diluted, from 205p when the listing was restored. This compares with a share price of 211p up 1p on the day.

David Miller questions the medical grounds for banning boxing

Why no argument will silence the calling of the ring



Evidence of barbarity? Colin Jones after the Curry bout (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

When Bob Arum, the American promoter, commented on the hall of plastic bottles that greeted the end of the WBA welterweight contest in Birmingham, he remarked that there are always a few bad apples in a crowd. American fight rings are not always havens of sweetness and light.

Perhaps Arum had in mind the story of the title bout at Madison Square Garden, when trouble was expected. Handing out press tickets beforehand, the promoter was simultaneously supplying the journalists with conspicuous hats. An English correspondent, known for his independence of mind, declined the offer. "I think you'd be advised to wear one, sir," he was told. Why, he asked indignantly? "Well, it's like this, the man said, 'When the fight ends and the trouble starts, and the cops come in with their truncheons, they like to know which heads not to hit.'"

Boxing regularly supplies its detractors and busy abolitionists with ammunition. No hyperbole is needed when we can see Ali reduced from panther to pathos, or Jake La Motta's frenzy laid bare by Robert De Niro in *Raging Bull*. Doubtless the bloody defeat in four rounds by Don Curry of Colin Jones, whose face had become as viridian as his Welsh shorts, will be used as further evidence of barbarity. I will return to this in a moment: the violence of spectators and participants are somewhat separate issues.

There is probable insufficient evidence available to the extent to which observing physically aggressive sport incites the viewer to emulate the spectacle, as occasionally happens in soccer, or alternatively provides a fantasy substitute, a catharsis. We dread being involved in an aeroplane or car crash, yet to exhibit an involuntary interest in such disaster is baffling. Others, boxing crowds are in fact predominantly well behaved, and the sport may serve more as a palliative of spectators' latent aggression than a corruption.

The issue is confused, as so often, by drink. In the £50 front row at the National Exhibition Centre, immediately behind the press ring-side seats, there was a spectrum of attire from dinner jacket to anorak, including a man whose shoes suggested he had travelled up the M5 from the valleys on foot. Significantly, under almost every seat

there were one or two six-packs of half-pint lager bottles, purchased after admission. The brief hail of bottles at the finish represented frustrated nationalism fortified by alcoholic confusion and the erroneous belief, shared by the fearful Jones, that sheer courage could somehow continue to survive Curry's analytically destructive fists.

The short answer, acknowledged by the progressive promoter, Frank Warren, is to serve the beer, profits from which keep down the price of tickets, in cups. "One bottle thrown is one too many," he says.

What the abolitionists tend to overlook is that Jones, for example, will now probably retire after only 30 fights, compared with, say, the 280 bouts of Ted "Kid" Lewis, world welterweight champion from 1915 to 1919, who nevertheless lived to be 74. It is untrue that most former fighters end up at the bottom of the food chain, as the pre-fight parade at Birmingham of former champions, still mentally agile enough to be able to calculate

their now not inconsiderable business income tax, amply demonstrated. Howie, Winston, Dick Richardson, Jim Watt and Henry Cooper.

The dozen or more MPs, such as Tom Pendry, who are former amateur boxers manage to find their way to work without a guide dog, as does my respected colleague, Srikanth Sen. Colin Moynihan, Tory member for Lewisham East, Olympic co-swimmer and a member of the British Boxing Board of Control, referees in the current Sports Council magazine the latest challenge of the British Medical Association. He points out that between 1969 and 1981, 480 people died in sport in Britain, of whom only two were professional boxers and three amateurs.

Riding, rugby, skiing, mountaineering and sailing are all more dangerous, and those who claim boxing is excruciating in its objective of inflicting pain should watch some rugby. "Give blood - play rugby," the car stickers say. Parliament is unlikely to ban boxing, as

Sweden has done, because members recognize that British leads the way internationally in medical supervision and control, and that such a law would conflict with the concept of individual freedom. Eastern Europe and the Afro-Asian world, led by Nigeria, would oppose the abolition of Olympic boxing.

As Moynihan says: "You have to admit boxing can be dangerous and I would not support it without the present medical control, and the important reduction of championships from 15 to 12 rounds. Every boxer has an annual examination, and is examined prior to every fight, with an X-ray of the distance is automatically suspended for 28 days - must then pass a full medical examination. The BMA made its decision after an extensive speech by Dr Butten, who had never seen a boxing match. Abolition would drive boxers abroad."

James Tye, director of the British Society of Council, campaigns against the sport, and cites the example of the popular Chris Finnegan, Olympic gold medal winner and European light-heavyweight champion, who is almost blind in one eye. Yet there exists a suspicion that Finnegan may have been less than attentive at the time to his own condition.

Ray Clarke, secretary of the Board of Control, points out that Tye's five main accusations against boxing on safety do not withstand scrutiny; that brain scans are being used; that referees are independently appointed; that doctors do stop fights (as last Saturday); that there are precautions following any knock out that ring floors are padded.

Yet might the lamented Johnny Owen have lived had he not had to wait 20 minutes while unconscious in a Los Angeles dressing room before the ambulance arrived? In the world's harsh cities, such as Madrid, Mexico City, Chicago, Tokyo, Glasgow and Manila, not to say mining valleys, boxing offers young men an opportunity for self-discipline and dignity as well as expression of forces which must be articulated by well-meaning communities. There is no incompatibility between intelligence and boxing. Gene Tunney, socialist millionaire, once reproached Bernard Shaw on the text of a play.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Blue Circle and Sainsbury leap as Americans go shopping

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

City men grew excited yesterday as a wave of American buying spread along Throgmorton Street.

American investors were said to be picking up household names among British stocks, with Blue Circle Industries and J Sainsbury high on the shopping lists. Blue Circle jumped 37p to 520p and Sainsbury went 18p better to 314p, new price peaks for both shares.

But London market men were showing signs of confusion at the sudden apparently brisk trade in these two stocks. The general belief in the market was that new American Depository Receipt issues had been made, facilitating US buying. In fact, ADRs have been available in both Blue Circle and Sainsbury since early November, through Morgan Guaranty, the New York investment bank.

It looks as though American investors have only recently become aware of the two shares on the ADR lists, and extended their "buy British" spree to them, taking the New York and London markets somewhat by surprise.

The companies themselves were taken aback by the reaction. At Blue Circle, Mr

Institutional investors competed with the American buyers for the available stock, and jobbers were once again caught on the hop by the strength of the demand. For once, the volume of business, 33,000 shares, was not out of line with price movements.

Those companies which are reckoned to be coming in dollar profits were also on the move again. Cookson Group jumped another 18p to 526p, marking a 40p rise in two days, and all because of the effect of the weak pound on its American earnings.

Laing & Crickshank, the stockbroker, returns to the ranks of Metal Box supporters. "We have been buying the shares since the interim results two months ago," says Henry Poole, analyst at L & C. He adds: "I believe the price-earnings ratio for the shares could well move up to eight." The relationship between the broker and the company now looks much warmer than in the past two years, and yesterday the Metal Box price glowed, up 26p to 418p, a price-earnings of about seven.

Christie's International, the auctioneer, rose 20p to 506p, giving the shares a two-day boost of 48p. The company is rapidly catching up with Sotheby's in the US, and is looking for an outstanding year there in 1985.

All the transatlantic favourites were strong. Imperial Chemical Industries bounded above the 800p mark for the first time, up 42p to 822p, at one time. It closed at 822p.

Lucas Industries, on hopes of a General Motors bid, advanced 9p to 273p. Other US favourites responded. There was keen demand for the likes of Bechtel Group and Distillers Co.

Besides the euphoria generated by the American Depository Receipts buoyed up by hopes that interest rates will soon start to fall, the drift back to work in the pits and even the Government's public spending standstill plans.

At the close the FT 30 share index was an exuberant 20.6 points higher at a record 1,045.5 points. The FT-SE share index stood above 1,300 for the first time at 1,305.7 points, up 26.7 points. Both indices closed at their best levels for the day.

But, once again, Government stocks, missed the party. Conventional stocks closed with modest gains following the sell off of the long "trap" index linked gilts on inflation worries, jumped by 61p.

Breweries were firm with Allied-Lyons jumping 6p to a 180p peak. In the first move since the shake up at the group's beer division when Mr Richard Martin became chairman, Allied is launching the American Schlitz lager in England and Wales. Its next import could be Japanese in the shape of the Suntory lager brand.

Shares in Hogg Robinson, the insurance broker and travel agency business, slipped 10p to 253p. As Mills and Acon International sold its 7.8 per cent stake in the company. The sale ends long standing rumours that MAI might bid for HR.

MAT's stake was placed by the stockbroker Rowe & Pitman with about 20 City institutions at a discount to the market price. MAI had failed to dispose of its stake last September because the 5p discount it

Allied, which effectively launched the larger revolution in this country, has been criticised for allowing other brewing groups, particularly Bass, to overtake it. But it is fighting back by offering a wide portfolio of overseas brands.

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries climbed 31p to 146p, almost touching the peak they hit more than a decade ago, almost touching the peak they hit more than a decade ago, almost touching the peak they hit more than a decade ago.

British Aerospace flew 18p higher to 378p yesterday as L

offered on its 2.5 million shares was not big enough.

Yesterday's sale follows Aitken Hume's disposal of its Hogg Robinson holding two weeks ago and leaves the Kuwait Investment Office by far the largest share holder, with 11.3 per cent. Mr Christopher Price, chief executive of HR, commented: "Clearly we are still an attractive takeover proposition, but the KIO holding does not worry me. We have lived with it for several years, now."

Acorn Computers, deep in the doldrums lately, responded to some optimistic noises from Mr Christopher Curry, managing director, with a 6p gain to 49p.

Mr Curry replied to what "seems like an orchestrated campaign in some sections of the press to run down the British computer industry in general and Acorn Computers in particular."

He said the company had enjoyed its best sales over Christmas. Total Acorn sales for 1984 were 420,000 units, more than double the previous year.

"We estimate our share of the home computer market to be around 25 per cent an increase of just over 10 per cent in just four months, offering our products are at the top end of the market."

Godfrey Davis, the Ford main dealer which has spread into park homes and portable buildings under the stewardship of Mr Cecil Redfern, chairman, is believed to be the subject of a share stake build up. The shares, at 114p, are 1p off their year high.

the market I would call this a major achievement - hardly the sign of imminent oblivion.

Acorn's shares were 193p at one time last year. A B Electronics, which has suffered alongside Acorn, rose 15p to 492p as Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, recommended A B shares. The broker reckons A B is selling less and less on orders from Acorn: last year 35 per cent of profits came from that source. A B has won an IBM contract which could add £2.5 million to profits, more than making up for any problems at Acorn.

Denlop Holdings dipped 2p to 34p as the backing banks refused to embrace the BTR offer with open arms and Lincroft Telecom, after touching 1344p, ended unchanged at 1324p.

Style rose 6p to 174p on the British Land tender offer and Lincroft Telecom, the textile group which earlier fought off a takeover bid from John Finlan, gained 6p 146p on its figures.

Dawn Development Corporation, the Canadian property development company, returned from suspension at 200p following the agreed bid from Bell Canada Enterprises to acquire a 98 per cent stake. BCE will be seeking representation on the board of Dawn.

Dawn suffered massive losses in 1982 and 1983 selling off large assets to pull the company back to its current position where net income last year was \$50 million compared with a loss of \$36 million in 1983 and \$85 million the previous year.

Finns lead way with two golds

Seefeld, Austria (Agencies) - Karl Harkonen won the 15 kilometre cross-country race and the Finnish ski jumper prevailed in the 90 metres team jumping event yesterday as Finland's first two medals in the Nordic world championships.

Harkonen skied and skated - the controversial skating step was named after his fellow Finn, Pauli Siitonen - to the top of the podium in the men's sprint event. The win ended a 15-year drought for Finland in men's individual world and Olympic cross-country skiing.

Harkonen recorded 40min 42.7 sec, to beat Thomas Wassberg, of Sweden, by 13 seconds. The Finns struck again less than five hours later as Matti Nykanen, Jari Puikkonen, Tuomo Ylipulli and Pentti Kiekkonen won the team jump at nearby Innsbruck.

Austria were second, with East Germany third, the first medals for both countries.

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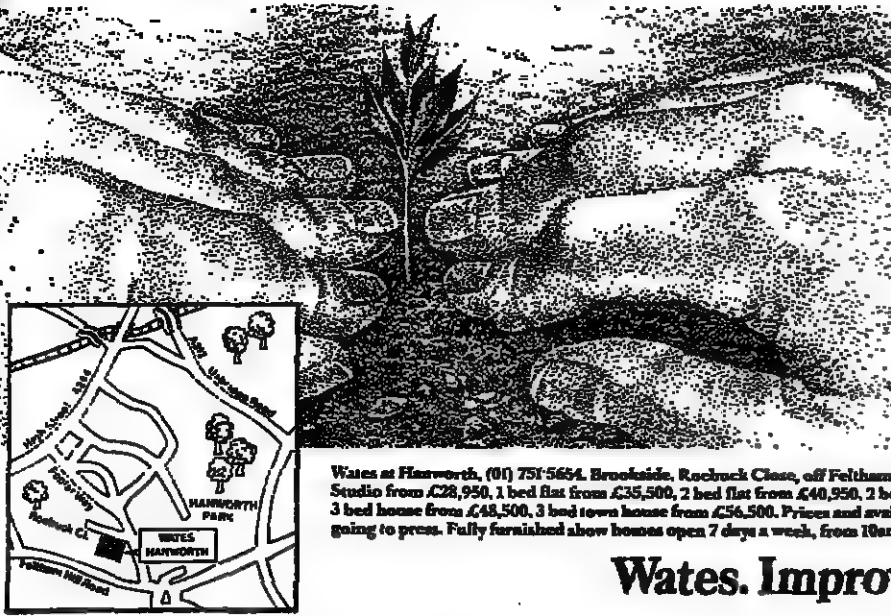
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Property Buyers' Guide

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Property Buyers' Guide

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

You could find your retreat in a Cotswold fort

Rodborough Fort, an old Cotswold fort situated on the edge of Rodborough Common near Stroud, which carries the lordship of the manor, is for sale at £250,000 through Bruton Knowles and Co. of Cheltenham.

The 20-room building was offered for sale two years ago and drew interest from America and the Continent before it was sold to the then managers, Mr and Mrs Goven Dadsell, who have carried out improvements to the fort, originally built in 1761 and rebuilt a century later. Its nine acres of grounds house 11 caravans in a holiday park.

The Orangerie, Trehill House, Kents, Exeter, Devon, is an intriguing property for conversion and extension to form a small house, and Fox and Sons' Exeter office are asking £35,000 for the freehold. Formerly part of the estate of Trehill House, The Orangerie overlooks a valley and woodland, has a good size garden, and planning permission for a two-bedroom house.

Parkland vicarage

Shropham Vicarage, a late-Georgian house near the church on the edge of the Norfolk village of Shropham, has recently been awarded a Grade II listing. Now it is for sale through Savills' Cambridge office, who are asking more than £140,000.

The vicarage, three miles from the A11, and standing in a parkland setting with 4½ acres of grounds, is owned by Prebendary Edward and Mrs Shroter, who restored the house. It has three or four reception rooms, seven bedrooms and two bathrooms. Outside there is stabling, garaging and a barn, which could provide further accommodation.

The Chelsea office of Marsh and Parsons are offering Number 9, Maxwell Road, SW6, a late-Victorian house on the Chelsea/Fulham borders, for sale at £160,000. The house, on the Moore Park estate, is in need of improvement and has a sheltered garden, a double reception room and four bedrooms.

Edwardian manor

Dorsington Manor, Stratford-upon-Avon, at present the home of the Domestic Fuel Trust, is for sale through John D. Wood, who are asking around £300,000 for this Edwardian manor house. The property was opened to the public about 10 years ago, with 20,000 people visiting each year, and it could be used for tourists or revert to its former role as a family home.

The main house has three reception rooms, billiards room, parlour, eight bedrooms, three bathrooms and a self-contained flat. There is also a small cottage and extensive outbuildings including a barn housing a restaurant.



Goldwell East, built at the turn of the century at Great Chart, near Ashford, Kent, where smugglers and customs men skirmished, is for sale through Strutt and Parker's Canterbury office, which is asking around £115,000 for the property, in over two acres of land. The East, on a hilltop with fine views, was converted in 1979 to provide a reception room 30ft by 20ft, five or six bedrooms and two bathrooms. Emphasizing heat conservation, the house has insulated walls, floors and ceilings and treble-glazed windows. It has a large attic which could be converted, and a brick barn adjoining.

Historic compromises

Burham Court at Teston, Maidstone, Kent, is regarded as the most historic house in the town, having at one time been the residence of St Thomas Fitz Uise, co-murderer of St Thomas of Canterbury.

It is an imposing country house with views of the river at Teston Bridge, and it is very large. The question is, what to do with it, and the answer is to sell it to a man who specializes in preserving historic houses, who will live in the main part and convert the stable and kitchen blocks into 33 luxury apartments.

The house has a fine pillared entrance hall with twin oak staircases and a gallery leading. The four reception rooms include a drawing room with a carved marble fireplace, with access to the flower room and glazed door to the terrace and conservatory.

A music room has French doors to the gardens, there is a library/billiards room, and the former chapel is now a kitchen. The principle bedroom has its own balcony, and there are nine further bedrooms, and the buyer, who has been responsible for varied restoration work from an oast house to a school.

John Wood, of Ward and Partners who sold it, considers it probably the finest house of its kind in the area, and Mr Heskeith is determined to develop its potential by providing homes for people and retaining the house as it should be.

A use for other important, historic buildings is always being sought.

Hilton Park, Essington, near Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, is a Grade I listed Queen Anne mansion house, with stable and conservatory building which are Grade II listed. Dating from the early 18th century, the original building had a third storey added in about 1840, and stands in about 22 acres of wooded parkland.

The house has present planning use as a convalescent home, and permission has recently been granted for conversion and extension of the main house to form a hotel, to give 95 bedrooms plus a conference centre, sports and leisure accommodation in the grounds. Bernard Thorpe and Partners are asking about £500,000, and say there is considerable interest from hoteliers and nursing home specialists.

Chesterton's Brook Street, London W1 office are offering for sale two former nurses' houses, which are surplus to the requirements of the North West Thames Regional Health Authority. Cheyne House and the adjoining Little Cheyne House, designed by the Victorian architect Norman Shaw, overlook the Thames towards Battersea Park, have between them nearly 50 bedrooms, are considered suitable for conversion to residential flats - or one sumptuous residence - and the price is around £1 million.

The other former hostel is three intercommunicating houses in Pennbridge Square, Notting Hill Gate, with 78 bedrooms and a private garden, for which Chesterton's are asking £1.25 million.

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[illegible][illegible]

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WRITER Continuing to be asked to be considered in compiling a book of literary fiction which is to start on a serious subject. 20226 T. The Times.

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continued on page 27

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10 terrific all the West End and
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[illegible]

Army-police link to grow after Brighton bomb

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary are to be involved in training police officers from all mainland forces in search techniques. Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, revealed yesterday when he announced new plans to tighten security arrangements in the aftermath of the bomb attack at the Conservative conference in Brighton last year.

Mr Brittan was commenting on the report of Mr John Hoddinott, deputy chief constable of Hampshire, into the security arrangements at the conference. The report said that it was by no means certain that, with techniques then in use, the best practicable search would have found the bomb hidden on the sixth floor of the Grand Hotel, Brighton. Mr Hoddinott concludes that Sussex police made proper and reasonable plans and implemented them competently and professionally.

A summary of the report's findings, released yesterday, foreshadows a review of arrangements for party conferences.

Mr Brittan told the House of Commons that he had asked Sir Lawrence Byford, chief inspector of constabulary, to head a team of chief constables and others to prepare urgently proposals for security at this year's party conferences and comparable occasions. Party representatives are being invited to join in the work of the team.

A new permanent working group will also be set up with the task of creating successful co-ordination of police forces throughout Britain in counter measures against terrorism. The group, under Home Office chairmanship, will include, in addition to the police, representatives of the security service and the Army.

Referring to party conference arrangements, Mr Brittan said that difficult decisions would have to be taken about the extent and manner of public access, the accommodation of political leaders subject to particular threat, pass systems and arrangements for stewarding meetings.

"These questions raise important issues about the cost and acceptability of changes to established democratic traditions. The answers will not be

Parliament, page 4

Israeli trucks roll as big pullout begins



A convoy of Israeli trucks heading for home from Naggoura in southern Lebanon, the pullout area where talks between Lebanon and Israel appeared to be making progress on the arrangements for the first stage of Israel's evacuation. Bombing protest, page 6.

Ethiopia hushes up epidemic of cholera in camps

Continued from page 1

Consequently, the people have been drinking from the brackish river nearby.

Perhaps most seriously, the refugees are so habitually plagued with severe diarrhoea that many consult the doctor only when the vomiting begins, by which time it is often too late.

Diarrhoea and dysentery, along with malaria, pneumonia, septic infections, scabies and worms were already rampant in the camp. It is only in the past three months that the famine has really hit this area and its people, a hardy lowland folk accustomed to living on the edge of subsistence, have been forced into the last resort of a refugee camp.

In such situations the first

months are invariably the worst with a population exhausted from a combination of malnutrition and the wearying trek to the camp.

In Harbo, where an average of 50 people still arrive daily, they show all the signs of comparatively recent arrivals. There is a resignation in the faces, a despair in the eyes and a listless quality to their movements. They sit and peer aimlessly out of tents or stand and watch the world without curiosity, a people who have given up. A debilitating disease like cholera seems somehow a ghastly inevitability.

The response of the Government and the relief agencies in Harbo has been swift. Senior members of the Politburo made an unprecedentedly

large and sudden visit to the camp. As a result, machinery was pulled off the task of building a dam near Kombalcha, which had previously been a top priority, and sent to building stone roads in the camp, to prevent the dispersal of dust through the tents, which was seen as a further health hazard.

An armed guard has been placed on the river and its waters heavily chlorinated. Tests are being made on the water which, upstream, runs through an area used as a stopover camp by many being evacuated from the province in the resettlement scheme.

The charities have been preparing for the crisis for over a month, ever since unsubstantiated reports of the epidemic

first reached Addis Ababa. "We didn't have any doubts that our information was good, but the Government was very touchy about having it made public," one charity worker said.

Such is the sensitivity of the Government on the subject that co-ordinating meetings between the charities and the subject was referred to only by the initial "C", but the donor groups did not hesitate to fly in large quantities of the drugs and intravenous fluids needed to combat cholera. In addition, Oxfam found the money to install a 45,000 litre tank to provide clean water for the camp.

The Government's reluctance to acknowledge the epidemic as cholera is twofold.

Only last week the Ethiopians signed an accord with the Egyptians in which, in return for seed corn and light machinery, it offered to trade fruit, meat and livestock. The loss of foreign confidence which would inevitably accompany a cholera announcement could prove disastrous to Ethiopian exports.

Its other motive is thought to be political. "Their problem is that there has been no cholera since the revolution, and in this part of Ethiopia there has been none for 14 years, not even during the last famine," one relief worker in Wollo said.

"Colonel Mengistu came to power because of the failure of the last government to manage a famine. Now here he is with one which is five-times as

Secrecy in Ponting trial defended by Havers

By Stewart Jenner, Crime Reporter

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, yesterday told the Commons that he agreed to jury vetting for the trial of Clive Ponting, the civil servant accused of leaking information on the sinking of the Argentine warship, the General Belgrano, because of evidence touching national security.

The evidence was a document written by Mr Ponting, a senior official at the Ministry of Defence, setting out the events leading up to the sinking. The document, nicknamed the "Crown Jewels", in which Mr Ponting will be examined in camera during the trial starting next week.

Sir Michael made his statement on the case and vetting yesterday after Opposition MPs had pressed for more information on the trial and why national security was being invoked after earlier assurances that it was not an issue.

After the Attorney General's statement, Mr Brian Raymont, solicitor for Mr Ponting, said Sir Michael had been misleading and failed to point out that the document was being entered late in the day as prosecution evidence.

Sir Michael spoke to the Commons after the trial, under Section Two of the Official Secrets Act, was raised at Prime Minister's question time by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader.

MPs were told the matter was sub judice and no comment could be made but a number of them raised points of order about the case before Sir Michael made his statement.

He said: "The Director of Public Prosecutions asked me for permission to vet the jury at the end of last week. I consented to that request."

"The defence lawyers applied for a copy of the document prepared by Mr Ponting setting out the events leading up to the sinking of the Belgrano. They recognised certain parts might involve intelligence information, and were prepared to accept a bawled version."

"Such a version would be extremely misleading and I sought permission from ministers concerned with the national security to use the whole document but in camera."

Parliament, page 4

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, Chancellor, London University, attends a presentation ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall, 2, and later, as President of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, dines with the Council of the Academy at 193 Piccadilly, London, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Canadian Holography Now, Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Mon to Wed 9.30 to 6, Thurs to Fri 9.30 to 8, Sat 10 to 5; (ends Feb 23).

Graham Tucker etchings reflecting his personal interest in sea and landscapes: Stantonbury Gallery, Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes; Mon to Fri 9 to 5; (ends Jan 31).

From the city of Edinburgh

Bach, Handel, Schütz: University Art Gallery, Department of Fine Art, Portland Building, Newcastle University; Mon to Fri 10 to 7, Sat 11 to 5; (ends Feb 2).

The National Stone Centre exhibition: Industrial Museum, The Silk Mill, off Full St, Derby; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4.45; (ends Feb 23).

Work by Ian Eadie, Museum and Art Gallery, War Memorial Gardens, Kilmarnock, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 10).

Private and Drawings, by Feliks Topolski, Welsh Arts Council Gallery, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff, Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Jan 26).

Newfoundlands Impressions, Mid-Pennine Arts Association Gallery, 2, Hamerton St, Burnley, Lancs, Mon to Fri 9 to 5, (ends Jan 31).

Treasures of Edinburgh: works

see taken in (5).

A rank would be material to a social worker (8).

Is proved wrong and so yields (18).

In exasperation a Pole once beat up a Cossack (8).

The Twist - the dance for the mad American (9).

With which a veteran shot an albatross (5-3).

Narrowing to allow for decoration (17).

Old frame in the pair worn by musical girl (7).

Sticky, like a primitive tool? Yes and no (6).

More craft turned back, no longer being in the lead (5).

Nonconformist's rise (5).

Holding doctors up is a little shocking (7).

Grub the French serving men see taken in (5).

A person of some authority at Holmes's breakfast-table (8).

Turned sick at heart about everything in Texas (6).

The man responsible for picking up litter (9-6).

Immortal to no purpose? (7).

Outrage by putting a couple of cigarette-ends on musical instrument (7).

A child among children, but mature (8).

Two outspoken characters getting together in a German town (5).

Having had promotion in the navy is the point (5).

It's essential for travellers to approve of the wine (6).

Clients' fashion design (7).

Restoration characters we learn about (7).

National title won by fighters (6-2-7).

Withholding the right article shows spirit (6).

Knock your partner down, say, in Cornish dancing style? (8).

DOWN

One may have it for the asking (1).

Disaster's agitation bringing on that jaded feeling (9).

Scots smallholders with lots of animals (7).

Like being seen around though shortly to become a musketeer (5).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Solution of Puzzle No 16,641

ACROSS

1 A person of some authority at Holmes's breakfast-table (8).

5 Turned sick at heart about everything in Texas (6).

10 The man responsible for picking up litter (9-6).

11 Immortal to no purpose? (7).

12 Outrage by putting a couple of cigarette-ends on musical instrument (7).

13 A child among children, but mature (8).

15 Two outspoken characters getting together in a German town (5).

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25 Restoration characters we learn about (7).

26 National title won by fighters (6-2-7).

27 Withholding the right article shows spirit (6).

28 Knock your partner down, say, in Cornish dancing style? (8).

DOWN

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2 Disaster's agitation bringing on that jaded feeling (9).

3 Scots smallholders with lots of animals (7).

4 Like being seen around though shortly to become a musketeer (5).

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

A Mozart Legacy, Aspects of the British Library Collections, by Alec Hyatt King (British Library, £11.50, paperback £5.95).

Dictionary of Modern Colloquial French, by René James Herail and Edwin A Lovatt (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £15).

E M Forster as Critic, by Rukun Advani (Croom Helm, £16.95).

Gordon of Khartoum, by Peter Johnson (Patrick Stephens, £5.95).

NE England, by John G. and John G. (Unwin, £12.95).

Michael Angelo Rooker, 1748-1801, by Patrick Connor (Batsford, £12.50).

Novels and Society in Elizabethan England, by David Margolies (Croom Helm, £14.95).

Publishing and Printing at Home, by Roy Lewis and John B. Eason (David & Charles, £12.50).

The Film Gazer, by Barry Norman (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.95).

Writers at Work: The Paris Review Interviews, edited by George Plimpton (Sackler & Warburg, £12.50).

Roads

Wales and West: M5: Inside lane and hard shoulder closed on southbound carriageway between junctions 26 (Wellington) and 27 (Tiverton). M5: Outside lane closed on northbound carriageway between junction 21 (Weston-Super-Mare) and 22 (Highbridge). A470: Temporary traffic signals at Erwood between Bill Wells and Llysven; temporary lights (24 hrs) at Erwood; single file traffic due to subsidence.

The North: A49: Diversions on Scotland Rd, Warrington. A1: Single lane traffic at Fairburn, NE of Castleford; lane closures; delays.

A58: Wigan road closed at Westoughton, Bolton, from the junction with Southfield Drive.

Scotland: A75: Single lane traffic of E of Dunragit, with temporary lights (24 hrs). A741: Roadworks on Paisley Rd, at Portfield Rd; lane closures when required. M74: Lane closures between junction 6 (M73) and junction 1 (Lanark); surface repairs to southbound carriageway. Information supplied by the AA.

Anniversaries

Births: Stendhal (Marie-Henri Beyle), novelist, Grenoble, France, 1783; Edmund Mares, Paris, 1832; Singley Chandra Bose, politician, Cuttack, Orissa, India, 1897.

Deaths: William Baffin, explorer, Persian Gulf, 1622; William Pitt (the Younger), prime minister 1783-1801, 1804-06, London, 1806; John Field, pianist and composer, Moscow, 1837; Charles Kingsley, novelist, Eversley, Hampshire, 1875; Anna Pavlova, The Hague, 1931; Edward Munch, painter, Oslo, 1944; Sir Alexander Korda, film producer, London, 1956; Paul Robeson, Philadelphia, 1976.

Snow reports

Depth (cm) Conditions Runs to Weather (5 pm) °C

Andover 10 155 good fair cloud 1

Courmayeur 60 190 good powder good snow 0

Grindelwald 15 65 fair heavy poor cloud 5

igls 65 55 fair heavy poor fair 9

Rapad thaw 30 120 good varied poor fair 0

Klosters 30 120 good varied poor fair 0

La Plagne 30 110 worn heavy poor rain 4

Leyla 10 50 fair spring poor rain 7

Munich 40 140 fair fair fair -

St Anton 30 120 fair heavy fair cloud 3

Seefeld 25 30 worn varied fair fair 4

Sölden 12 38 poor heavy closed rain 4

Tignes 45 95 good varied fair snow 2

Val Thorens 55 125 good varied poor snow 2

Zermatt 80 60 good heavy fair cloud 3

In the above report, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. Other snow reports page 23.

Weather

Deep depression over NE Scotland slowly moving NE; very strong N to NW showery airstream maintained over the United Kingdom.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, E, central N England, East Angles, Midlands: Bright periods, scattered windy showers; wind NW, force 4-5; max temp 4C (39F).

Cheshire, Lancs, SW England, S Wales, South bright intervals, scattered windy showers; wind NW, force 4-5; max temp 4C (39F).

N Wales, NW England, East District, Isle of Wight, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy with showers; wind NW strong; max temp 4C (39F).

SE Wales, SW, NE, NW Scotland, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, some showers, heavy at times with some drifting; wind N to NW, force 4-5; max temp 4C (39F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Similar, rather cold with night frost; sea, N. H. G. S. North Sea Wind W strong to gale force; showers; visibility good; sea rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NW fresh or strong; showers; visibility good; sea rough. Channel (W): Wind NW strong to gale force; showers; visibility good; sea rough. Irish Sea: Wind NW strong to gale force; showers; visibility good; sea rough. Atlantic: Wind NW strong to gale force; showers; visibility good; sea rough.

Sun rises: 7.52 am. Sun sets: 4.34 pm.

Moon rises: 9.32 am. Moon sets: 7.05 pm.

First quarter: January 28.

Lighting-up time

London 5.04 pm to 7.20 pm; Brighton 5.14 pm to 7.30 pm; Edinburgh 4.57 pm to 7.55 pm; Manchester 5.04 pm to 7.37 pm; Newcastle 5.31 pm to 7.37 pm.

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; v, very; w, wind.

Belfast c 2-5 f 3-6

Birmingham c 2-5 f 3-6

Bristol c 2-5 f 3-6

Cardiff c 2-5 f 3-6

Edinburgh c 2-5 f 3-6

Glasgow c 2-5 f 3-6

London c 2-5 f 3-6

Manchester c 2-5 f 3-6

Newcastle c 2-5 f 3-6

Nottingham c 2-5 f 3-6

Sheffield c 2-5 f 3-6

Southampton c 2-5 f 3-6

Stirling c 2-5 f 3-6

Wolverhampton c 2-5 f 3-6

Wrexham c 2-5 f 3-6

Wye c 2-5 f 3-6

Wye c 2-5 f 3-6

Wye c 2-5 f 3-6

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High tides

London Bridge 3.10 AM 3.10 PM

Abbeville 2.48 AM 2.48 PM

Amble 2.48 AM 2.48 PM

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